Shell, Petron raise gasoline prices by 60 centavos

Story on PAGE A2

Anti-war message: No blood for oil

HUNDREDS of thousands of demonstrators gathered in cities across the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East as US troops massed in the Gulf and UN arms chiefs headed to Baghdad to warn it to cooperate over alleged banned weapons.

At least 50,000 gathered in front of the US Capitol in an emphatic dissent

ANTI-WAR/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Chinoy journalist eyes Guinness entry

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TRACK RECORD
AKO!!!

A CHINESE-FILIPINO journalist for seven decades who once ran an underground media blitz against occupying Japanese forces is claiming to be the world's longest-serving newspaper editor in chief.

CHINOY/ A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, January 20, 2003 ★ 58 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 43 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Cory says con-con better

Referendum during '04 elections preferred

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

THE LEADERS of People Power are joining the call for a constitutional convention as the best way to effect Charter change.

Former President Corazon Aquino said yesterday she, too, supported constitutional change.

"We're also for Charter amendments," Ms Aquino said through her spokesperson, Lourdes Siytangco. But Ms Aquino, who came to power through Edsa I and was a moving force behind Edsa II, said she preferred that a referendum simultaneous with the 2004 elections be held first.

"Before we even push for Charter amendments, we should first feel the real pulse of the people," Siytangco quoted Aquino as saying. "We should ask them, 'Do you want to amend the Constitution or not?'"

"A constitutional convention will be better because it will keep out politicians," she added. "It would allow for a wider range of representatives such as academicians and even ordinary people who will study the Charter."

Sources privy to the program marking Edsa II's second anniversary today told the INQUIRER that Jaime Cardinal Sin will also signal support for the convention mode when he reads his homily today at the Edsa Shrine.

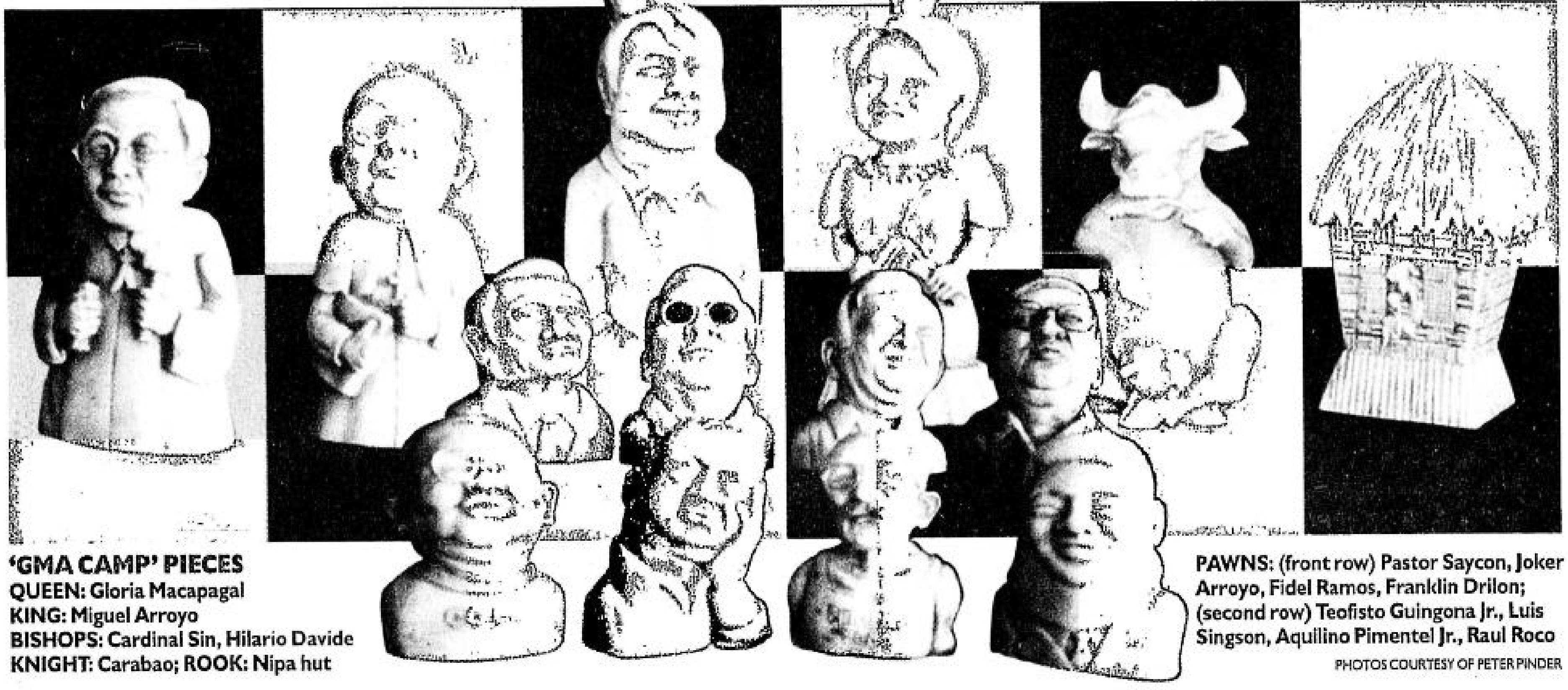
One source said the influential Archbishop of Manila, who called on the people to flock to Edsa both in 1986 and 2001, decided to openly support a constitutional convention to "once and for all douse cold water" on the move to convene Congress into a constituent assembly, which Speaker Jose de Venecia wants.

Sin is expected to call for the use of the convention mode because it was "fairer" than the alternative.

As calls for a constitutional convention continued to mount, the chief advocate of a constituent assembly tried an unconventional approach.

Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura, the chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, yesterday urged De Venecia to do "as the President did," and declare he would not run for prime minister if Charter

CORY/ A4



'GMA CAMP' PIECES
QUEEN: Gloria Macapagal
KING: Miguel Arroyo
BISHOPS: Cardinal Sin, Hilario Davide
KNIGHT: Carabao; **ROOK:** Nipa hut

PAWNS: (front row) Pastor Saycon, Joker Arroyo, Fidel Ramos, Franklin Drilon; (second row) Teofisto Guingona Jr., Luis Singson, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Raul Roco

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PETER PINDER

Don't lose hope, Edsa II forces told

By Christian V. Esguerra and Agnes E. Donato

"DON'T lose hope. Pray for the country."

Former President Corazon Aquino yesterday gave this piece of unsolicited advice to Edsa II forces who are marking the second anniversary of the popular revolt that ousted Joseph Estrada.

"Whatever it is that we're celebrating, we should turn to prayers and always think of the welfare of the country," Ms Aquino said through her spokesperson, Lourdes Siytangco.

But militant groups are not exactly in a prayerful mood. Yesterday, they vowed to mark the Edsa II anniversary with protests.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, one of the groups that figured prominently in the four-day uprising, said it would return to the historic Edsa Shrine "to pay tribute to the Filipino, to remember the ideals of Edsa II and to condemn the betrayal made by the (Macapagal) Arroyo government to the people."

Fr. Jose Dizon, spokesperson of the anti-corruption group PlunderWatch, called on Bishop Socrates Villegas, rector of the shrine, to open it to the people by lifting the barricades surrounding it and sending the soldiers guarding it away.

"These desecrate, defile and despoil the Edsa Shrine, making it look like a garrison or a fortress, instead of a church devoted to the memory of two heroic political acts undertaken by the Filipino people," Dizon said.

Today's Edsa II celebration has acquired greater import, with some of the President's critics expected to attend, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said.

"Everybody is invited," she told the IN-

DON'T/ A18

Artist plays with history, crafts Edsa II chess game

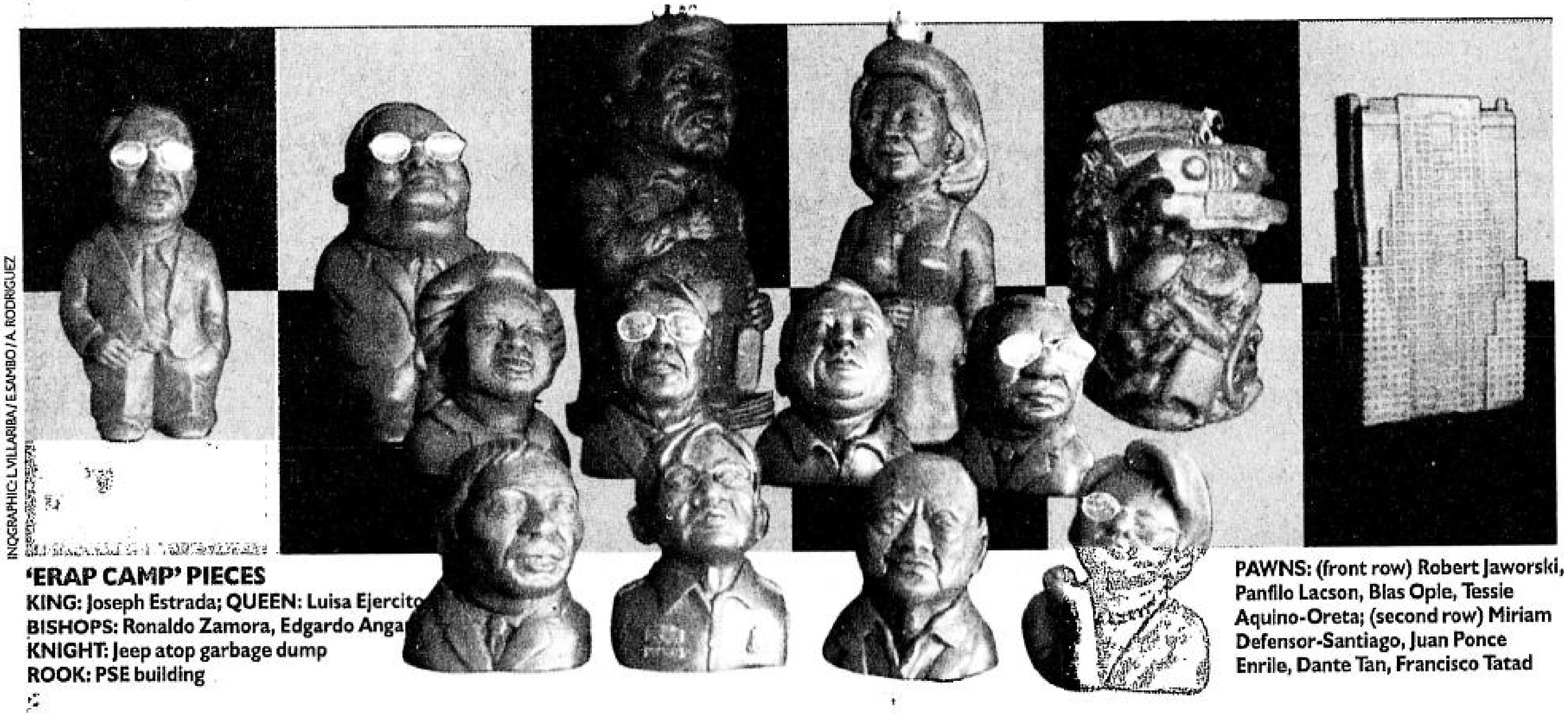
By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, Benguet—To remind Filipinos of history, an artist here has created a "political" chess set that features the protagonists of People Power II.

The pieces, crafted by sculptor Peter Pinder from marble and resin, pit the camps of deposed President Joseph Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In Pinder's creation, Estrada and Ms Macapagal share the board with a gamut of characters and symbols identified with

ARTIST/ A18



INQGRAPHIC: L. VILLARIBA/ E. SAMBO/ A. RODRIGUEZ

'ERAP CAMP' PIECES
KING: Joseph Estrada; **QUEEN:** Luisa Ejercito
BISHOPS: Ronaldo Zamora, Edgardo Anga
KNIGHT: Jeep atop garbage dump
ROOK: PSE building

PAWNS: (front row) Robert Jaworski, Panfilo Lacson, Blas Ople, Tessie Aquino-Oreta; (second row) Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Dante Tan, Francisco Tatad

People more certain of light at end of tunnel

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

TWO days before the transfer of power from President Joseph Estrada to Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the country was locked in a political stalemate that pushed it to the edge of civil war.

No one—absolutely no one—knew how the stalemate would be broken until the military withdrew support from Estrada at the Edsa Shrine in the afternoon of Jan. 19, 2001.

The withdrawal of support marked the collapse of the short-lived Estrada regime (the former actor had served only 30 months of his six-year term), which was then quickly followed by Ms Macapagal's induction into the

PEOPLE/ A18

Professionals get one-month reprieve from VAT

By Carlito Pablo

PROFESSIONALS earning talent or consultancy fees are getting a one-month reprieve from the 10-percent value added tax (VAT) on their incomes.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government was extending the registration period for professionals like entertainers, athletes, doctors, accountants and lawyers to Feb. 28. The registration was originally set to end on Jan. 31.

"This will give us more time to educate professionals on the implications of the tax and to help them in the registration," Camacho said in a phone interview.

Actors, doctors, accountants and lawyers are opposing the imposition of the 10-percent VAT. The tax was required under a 1997 law but its application to professionals, particularly members of the show business industry, was deferred for five years by a subsequent law that expired on Dec. 31, 2002.

The House of Representatives has passed a new tax measure seeking to grant another deferment, but it has yet to be acted upon by the Senate.

A Palace insider said President Macapagal-Arroyo was

PROFESSIONALS/ A19

Top 20 Taxpayers in Show Biz 2001

1. Dolphy
2. Martin Nievera
3. Fernando Poe, Jr.
4. Cesar Montano
5. Kris Aquino
6. Robin Padilla
7. Zsa Zsa Padilla
8. Ogie Alcasid
9. Rudy/Lorna Fernandez
10. Edgar Mortiz
11. Randy Santiago
12. Paolo Bediones
13. Pops Fernandez
14. Donita Rose
15. Jolina Magdangal
16. Ariel Rivera
17. Vina Morales
18. John Estrada
19. Sharon Cuneta/ Francis Pangilinan
20. German Moreno

PDI RESEARCH/ INQGRAPHIC: ESAMBO

Dolphy leads list of top show biz taxpayers

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLPHY, the country's top comedian, was the top taxpayer among show biz personalities in 2001, dislodging Kris Aquino who ranked first the previous year but dropped to No. 5, according to data gathered by the INQUIRER.

Singer Martin Nievera took the second slot, improving his ranking from No. 5 in 2000. He was followed by action king Fernando Poe Jr.

Dolphy, Rodolfo V. Quizon in real life, and Nievera paid between P2 million and P2.5 mil-

DOLPHY/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/20/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Shell, Petron raise gas prices by 60¢

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL oil giant Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. jacked up gasoline prices by 60 centavos per liter effective 10 p.m. last Saturday. Another big oil firm, Petron Corp., is expected to hike its prices at noon today.

Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell general manager for external affairs, said in a telephone interview the latest increase was due to the cost of complying with the Clean Air Act.

Petron did not officially announce any price movement, but industry sources said the firm would match Shell's move at noon today.

Shell and Petron last increased prices of gasoline by 49 centavos per liter on Jan. 3. Both firms cited the sharp uptrend in world crude prices for the hike.

"We are not increasing prices of diesel and kerosene" as the Clean Air Act's specifications that took effect on Jan. 1 cover only gasoline, Kanapi said.

The new law requires gasoline products sold and used in the country to contain no more than 35 percent and 2 percent aromatics and benzene, respectively, beginning Jan. 1.

Officials of the Big Three oil firms, including Caltex (Philippines) Inc., said the cost of complying with the law ranges from 80 centavos to P1.20 per liter of gasoline.

On the other hand, the small oil firms said this could be as low as 20 centavos per liter.

Officials of Caltex, Seaoil Philippines Inc. and Flying V said their managements had yet to decide on further price increases.

TotalFinaElf Philippines, Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Philippines Petroleum Inc. began last Thursday this month's second round of price hikes at 57-60 centavos for gasoline and 40-42 centavos for diesel and kerosene.

Aside from Shell, only Eastern and and Seaoil are already passing on to customers the cost of complying with the Clean Air Act.

Eastern said this accounts for 40 centavos of current pump prices. Seaoil figures were not available at press time.

Unioil said it would not pass on the cost to consumers but this would be between 20-30 centavos.

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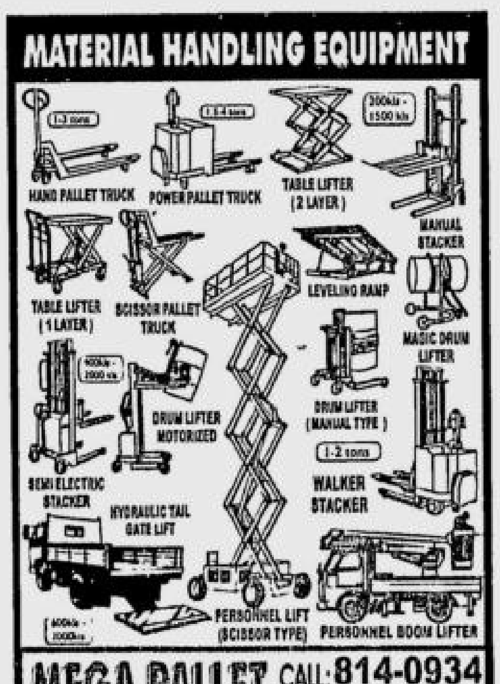

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'Credible threats' cut short US general's trip

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The chief of the US Special Operations Command in the Pacific, Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, who was to have inaugurated a government hospital in Basilan on Sunday, cancelled his attendance at the last minute due to "credible threats."

A top official at the Philippine military's southern command confirmed the cancellation was made after officials received "credible threats" against American troops in the south from Muslim Abu Sayyaf rebels. He did not elaborate.

Instead, the military's southern command chief, Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, flew to Basilan alone to preside over the opening of the 25-room hospital which was renovated by US troops in the town of Lamitan.

The Philippine military had earlier said Wurster had accompanied Abaya to Basilan, but later clarified that the American general had cancelled the trip to return immediately to his base in Hawaii.

The threats came as the first batch of US Special Forces arrived here on Saturday to begin the second phase of war games designed to help fight terrorism.

A US military spokesperson told Reuters on Sunday that the first batch of American troops had arrived in Zamboanga City. He declined to give details, citing security reasons.

About 300 Americans are to take part in the exercises, expected to begin in early February. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with AFP, Reuters reports*

Libya wants Misuari freed

THE LIBYAN government has expressed a desire to see Nur Misuari released from jail as part of the continuing implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front, according to a top MNLF field commander.

Ustadz Mursi Ibrahim, secretary general of the MNLF Central Committee, said the Libyan government under President Muammar Ghaddafi has communicated its wish verbally to President Macapagal-Arroyo through Libyan Ambassador to the Philippines Dr. Salem Adam.

Ibrahim said the Philippine government has not given a firm reply on the matter but expressed to Adam its commitment to the full implementation of the 1996 peace agreement.

Misuari is facing rebellion charges and is in a special detention bungalow in Santa Rosa, Laguna that was originally built for deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Ibrahim and 18 other top MNLF commanders are in Manila to attend a Libya-initiated "unity meeting" of all Bangsamoro forces that is aimed at saving the gains of the peace agreement. *Arlyn de la Cruz*

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Cory says con-con better

From page A1

change resulted in a parliamentary form of government.

Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, who acknowledged that efforts to amend the Constitution have been clouded with suspicion about the motives of congressmen, joined Nachura's dare.

Nachura noted that the debate on Charter change had become "personality-oriented" rather than "issue-oriented.'"

"It would be nice for the Speaker to do (as) the President did, which is to also renounce any ambition to run for head of government in the event there are amendments ... if only to dispel suspicion that he is personally interested [in becoming] prime minister," Nachura said. His committee is behind House Resolution No. 16, which seeks to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly.

AQUINO

Nachura was referring to Ms Macapagal's declaration that she was not going to run for president in 2004, in order to concentrate on reforms.

Yesterday, the President reiterated her decision, saying she would not change her mind. "Even if I get 4 million signatures, I will not run," she said.

In a phone interview, Nachura stressed that De Venecia would actually only be reiterating what he had said earlier, that he had no ambition to run for president or prime minister.

He recalled that the Speaker had made such a statement at a news conference he held last year.

In a statement, Failon also called on De Venecia to make the "supreme sacrifice." He said as long as there were "lingering suspicions" that De Venecia was pushing for the changes so he could become head of parliament, efforts to revise the Constitution "would remain a very contentious and divisive one."

Failon was one of seven congresssmen who opposed holding a constituent assembly to amend the Charter during a House caucus last week.

Hands off

In Malacañang, the President's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said Ms Macapagal would observe a hands-off stance on the issue, after making her preference for a constitutional convention known last week.

The President will "not interfere with detailed discussions" in the House and Senate on whether Charter change will be effected through a convention or an assembly, Bunye said.

"What is important is that the President recognizes the need to have changes in our Charter," Bunye said in a radio interview.

"The President has said that she respects the separation of powers and she will not interfere with detailed discussions," Bunye said. "In her view, let us just allow the House and Senate to discuss among themselves and choose which mode is better for all of us."

Because of the opposed views of the President and De Venecia, the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats will hold a top-level caucus tonight in the Palace "to firm up the party's stand on how and when to change the Charter," a Palace insider said.

The source said Ms Macapagal, De Venecia and Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the president of the party, will lead the meeting, which shall be participated in by party leaders down to the city level. Former President Fidel Ramos, the party's chair emeritus, is out of the country.

"It (caucus) will harmonize and reconcile whatever differences there are with respect to Cha-cha," the source said. "With leaders coming from all over the country, we'll have a solid position."

The same source said Malacañang expected a number of administration senators who are against Charter change to "swing sides later on."

"They'll soon see the light," the source said. "There'll be a few holdouts but some will change their positions soon."

A waste basket

But an administration senator said a constitutional convention elected in 2004 might well turn out to be a "waste basket of rejects" of those who cannot run for other elective positions.

Sen. Joker Arroyo took the country's "top leaders" to task for indulging "in a mad frenzy about amending or revising the Constitution under various pretexts when two credible surveys indicate that the people are against it at this time."

Arroyo said "it is not difficult to divine the reasons for the resolute advocacy that the election of delegates to a constitutional convention coincide with the 2004 elections."

"That would mean 300 to 400 elective positions for delegates available for trade-off to aspirants who want to but cannot be accommodated to run for city mayor, governor, congressman and senator," he said.

As such, a constitutional convention "would be the beginning of a highly politicized process that will be manned by second stringers."

Arroyo likewise pointed out that there was "no way, at present, that (Charter change) can get past Congress, more particularly the Senate."

In Lucena City, a former constitutional convention delegate, Oscar Santos, expressed support for another convention, but only after the 2004 elections.

In the House, Nachura said one provision in the Charter needed changing in particular. He said lawmakers have called for the scrapping of Article 2, Section 3, which defines the role of the Armed Forces as the protector of the people and the State.

But opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico said the President should order De Venecia and administration lawmakers to "cease and desist" from tackling Charter change in the first place.

"The President's words and actions should correspond to each other," Suplico said in a statement. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Rocky Nazareno; AFP; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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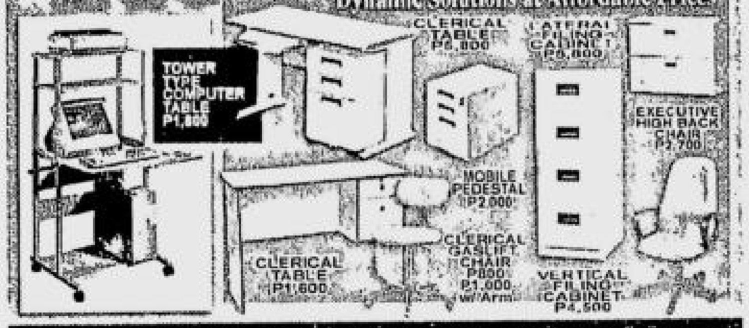
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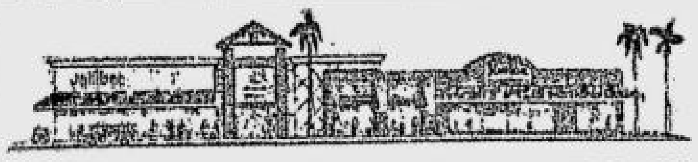

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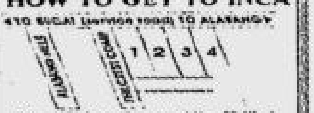

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5 killed in Army-NPA clashes

TWO SOLDIERS and at least three communist rebels were killed in separate clashes over the weekend, the military said Sunday.

In the first incident on Saturday, two soldiers were killed when New People's Army (NPA) rebels ambushed a group of government forces returning to an army camp near San Luis in Agusan del Sur province, the military said.

The outnumbered troopers fought back, killing one of the insurgents, until reinforcements backed by an army personnel carrier arrived and forced the guerrillas to retreat into the hinterland, the Agence France Presse reported.

On Sunday, patrolling troops encountered some 40 NPA guerrillas near Dinalongan, Aurora province, triggering an hour-long battle, regional army chief Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza said.

The bodies of two NPA rebels were recovered along with their automatic rifles, with field reports indicating that several other guerrillas were wounded while escaping, Braganza said.

The military did not release the identities of the slain soldiers.

In the Southern Tagalog region, militant leftist groups assailed the planned deployment of more government troops to the area, saying it would only result in more human rights violations against civilians.

"Based on experience, every time there is a concentration of government forces in any area, its consequence is rising incidents of human rights violations against innocent civilians," Eden Marcellana, Karapatan-ST secretary general, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The Southern Luzon Unified Command (Solcom), however, clarified that there would be no military deployment but a recruitment of soldiers from among qualified residents of the rebel-infested areas in the region. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP*

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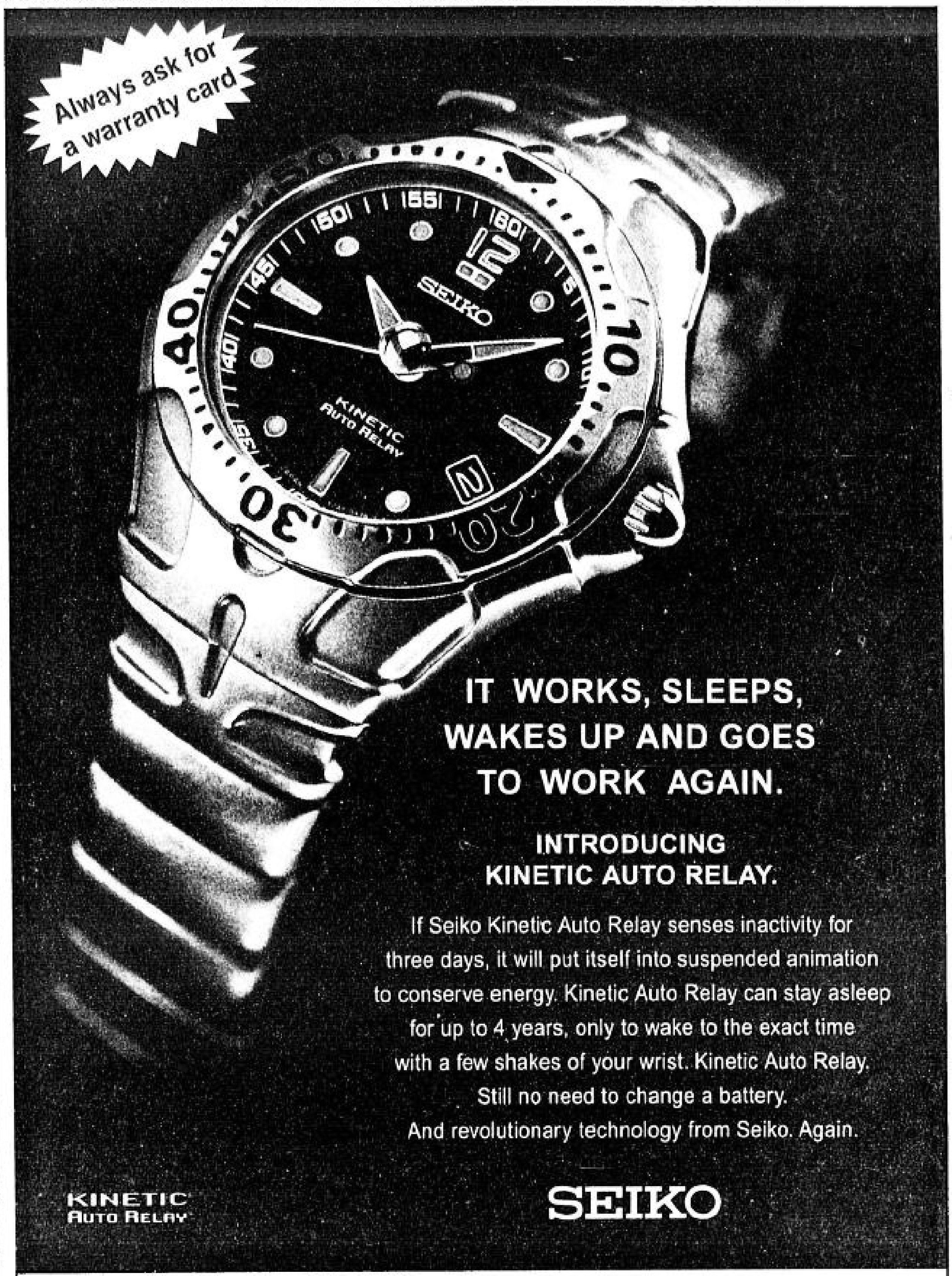

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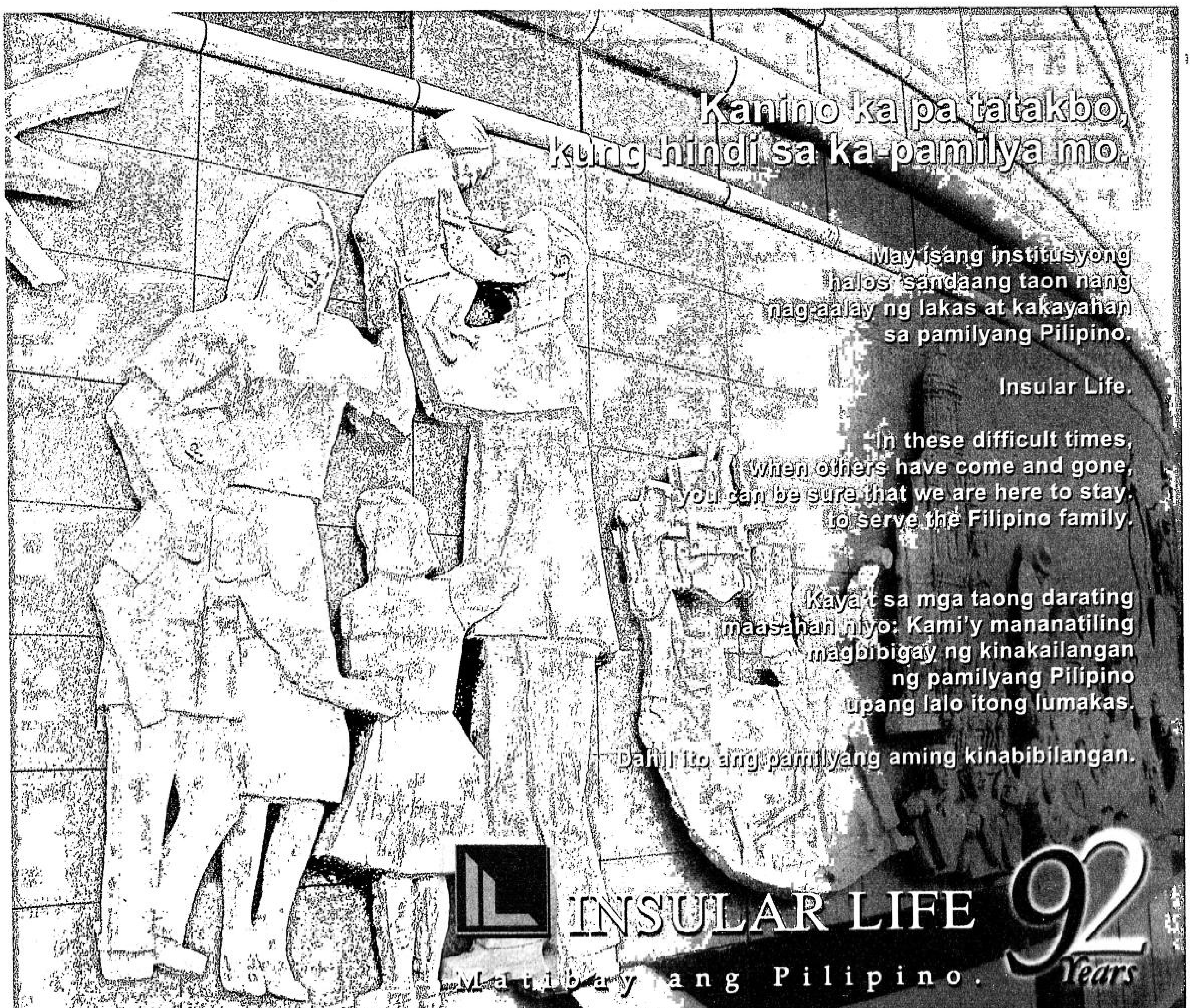

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A REPORT ON THE PANDACAN SCALE-DOWN OPERATIONS

With a view to addressing the safety and security concerns of the City of Manila and the national government, while at the same time ensuring the normal supply of petroleum products for Metro Manila and Luzon, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed last June 2002 between the Department of Energy, the City of Manila, Caltex (Philippines), Inc., Petron Corporation and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation.

Among the salient points agreed in the MoU are:

1. The decommissioning and removal of a total of 28 petroleum storage tanks in the Pandacan terminal.
2. The setting up of a joint venture company that aims to integrate the operations of the three oil companies in Pandacan.
3. The construction of "safety and green buffer zones" between the depot and surrounding communities to further enhance the security of the Pandacan terminal.

Since the signing of the MoU in June within a span of six months, the following accomplishments were achieved:

1. A total of 13 out of 28 tanks (or 46%) have been dismantled.
2. A Joint Venture Company that will handle the integrated operations of our oil terminals has been agreed in principle.
3. Ground clearing of the "safety and green buffer zones" has started on both the Shell and Petron sides.

Within the next 15 months, in compliance with the MoU, we are committed to the following:

1. The removal of the remaining 15 petroleum product storage tanks while ensuring no disruption in the supply of LPG and other petroleum products in Metro Manila and Luzon.
2. The setting up of the Joint Venture Company to assure the agreed joint operations in Pandacan.
3. The opening of the first part of the Pandacan Linear Park Phase 1 (near Shell) and Phase 2 (near Petron) this year.

We remain committed to the spirit of the agreed MoU.

CALTEX PETRON

Tillers hail, pan release of ₱700-M coco fund

LUCENA CITY—Coconut farmers in Quezon have welcomed President Macapagal-Arroyo's order releasing P700 million from the coconut levy fund.

But, the farmers warned, the money should be used solely to help them and not for any other purpose like covering the country's huge budget deficit, as proposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Rene Cerilla, Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon president, described the President's order as the most "welcome development this new year."

"It's only a morsel of the coconut levy fund, but it's a welcome thing," Cerilla said.

On Saturday, President Macapagal announced the impending release of at least P700 million from coco levy fund earnings.

The coco levy or the Coconut Consumers Stabilization Fund was collected from small coconut farmers during the Marcos regime from 1973 to 1982, under Presidential Decree 276. It now totals more than P100 million.

But for Fred Torres, head of the militant Pinag-isang Lakas ng Samahang Magsasaka sa Quezon or Piglas-Quezon, the President's release order was part of a propaganda blitz.

"It was a great charade to deceive the farmers. She just wanted to salvage whatever is left of her declining popularity. This was part of the propaganda that started in Baguio City where she announced that she was no longer interested in the 2004 polls," Torres said.

Torres said the President should show the sincerity of her intentions by prosecuting "the big monopoly capitalists who raided the coconut levy fund during the Marcos regime."

"I dare her to prosecute Danding Cojuangco and his gang," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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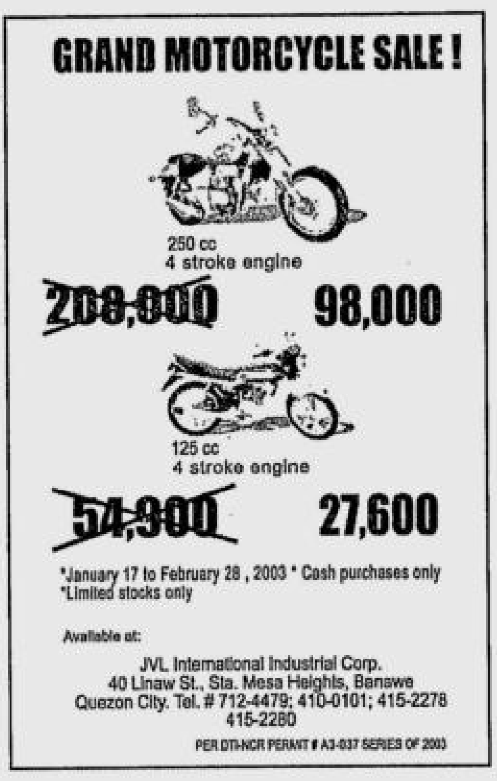
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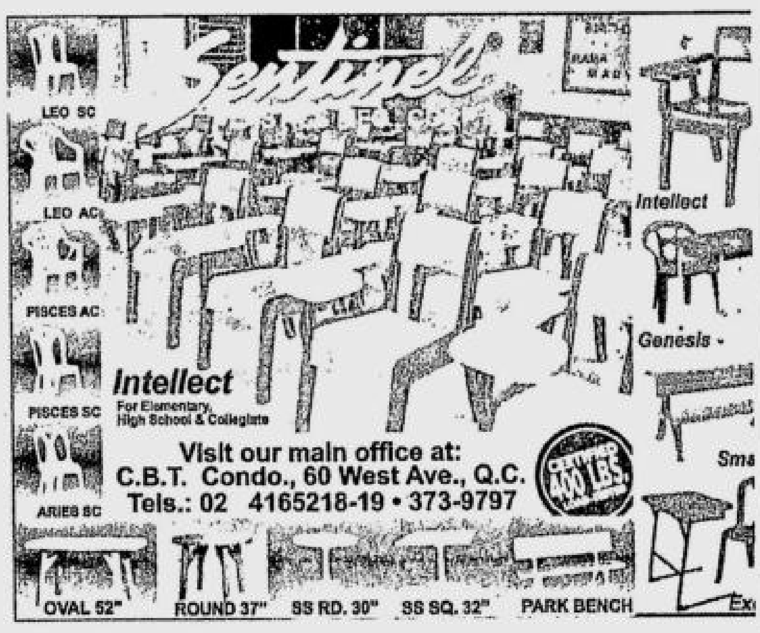

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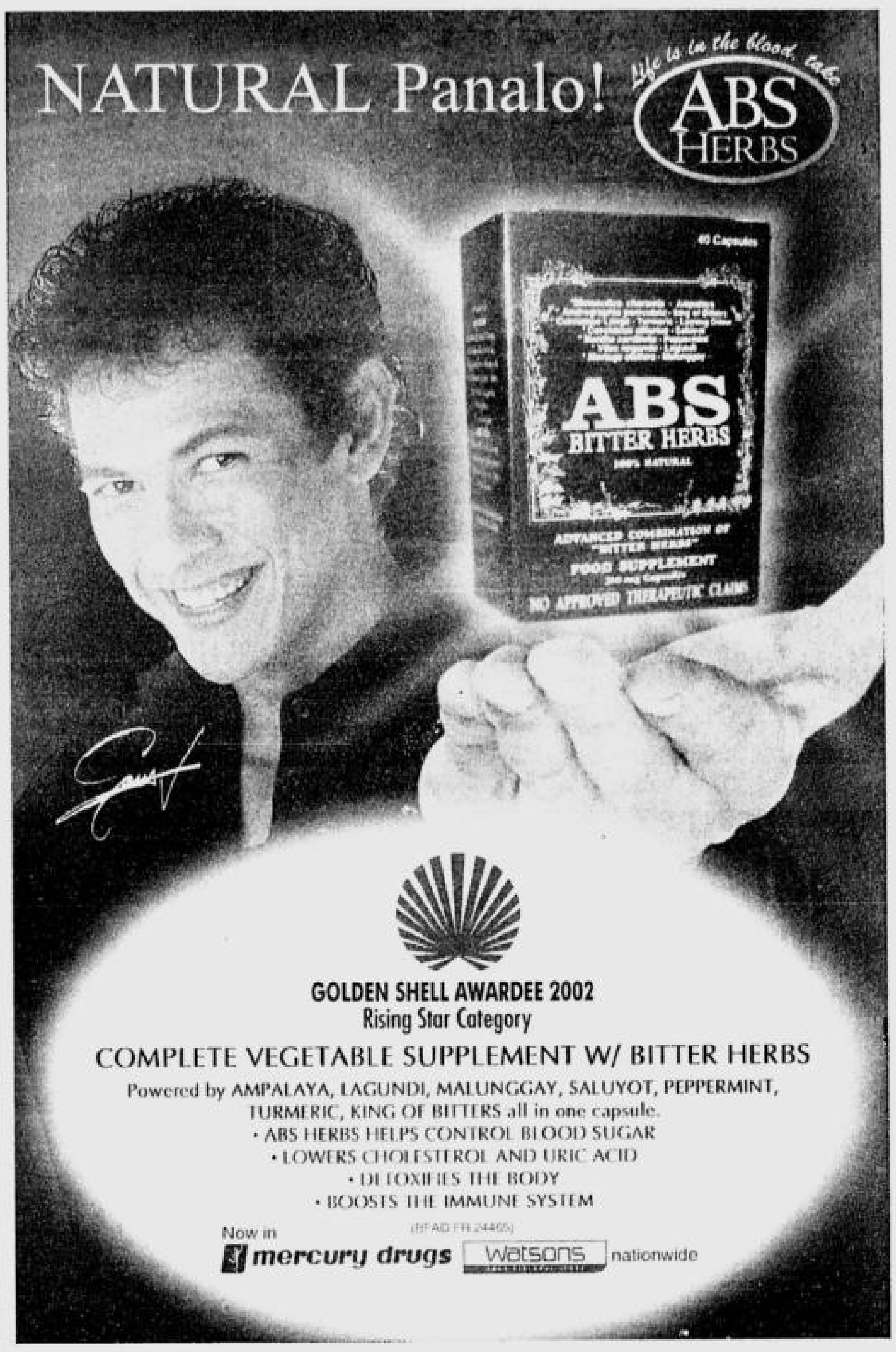
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CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

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Despite several oil price increases in the past 12 months, prices of prime commodities in January this year have generally remained stable. This may be attributed to an oversupply in the market as well as favorable weather conditions, with no typhoons entering the country in the past 4 months.

Prices of evaporated milk, powdered milk, sardines, refined sugar and tilapia have remained the same. Detergent bar, pork liempo and dressed chicken have decreased. Coffee refills, instant noodles, ordinary rice, brown sugar, and cooking oil registered increases.

COMMODITIES	PRICES	
	07 JANUARY 2003	JANUARY 2002
Prices have remained the same		
Evap Milk (Alaska & Carnation)	P 22.00	P 22.00
Powdered Filled Milk 180g (Alaska & Bear Brand)	29.00	29.00
Sardines 155g (Master, 555, Ligo)	8.30	8.30
Refined Sugar (1kg)	28.00	28.00
Tilapia	60.00	60.00
Prices decreased		
Detergent Bar (Mr. Clean, Surf)	14.50	15.25
Pork Liempo	110.00	115.00
Dressed Chicken	85.00	90.00
Prices registered minimal increase		
Coffee Refill 50g (Blend 45, Cafe Puro, Great Taste, Nescafe)	22.35	22.00
Instant Noodles 320g (Maggi, Payless, Lucky Me)	4.35	4.00
Prices increased		
Ordinary Rice (35% broken)	20.00	18.00
Brown Sugar (1kg)	24.00	23.00
Cooking Oil		
Lapad/bilog	11.00	10.00
Long neck	22.00	20.00

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OPINION

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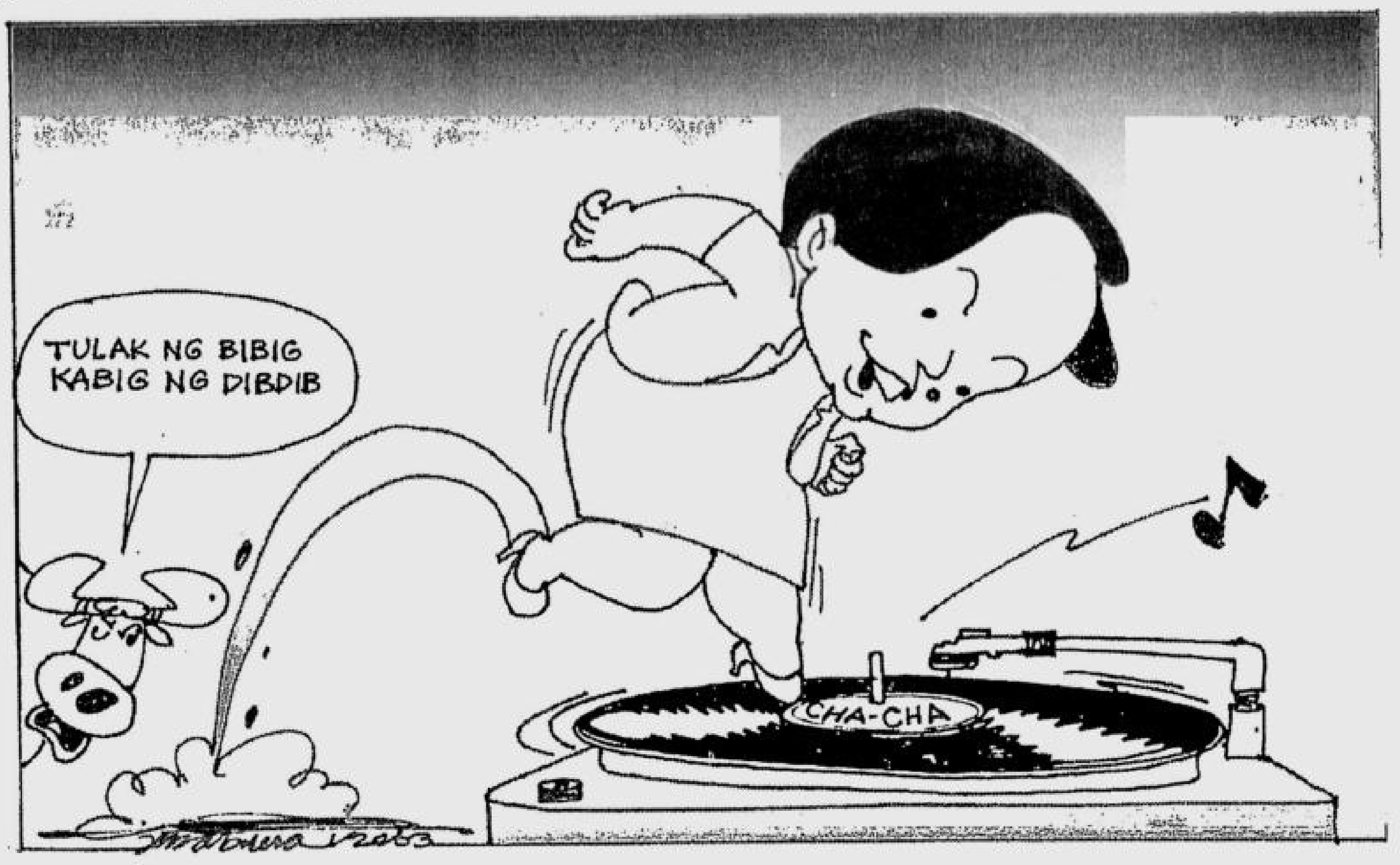

EDITORIALS

No apologies

LAST year, the country seemed embarrassed to mark the first anniversary of Edsa II. The public mood was reflected in the suggestion by some senators that the country "commemorate," rather than "celebrate," the historic event.

The lack of enthusiasm for the second flourishing of People Power was unfortunate, but easy enough to understand. The social explosion that led to the May 1, 2001 siege of Malacañang had put the spotlight on the divisive nature of post-Estrada politics. After May 1, the divisiveness became a permanent feature of the political stage.

Today, however, the public mood is dramatically different. There is renewed interest in the historic events that led to the second peaceful ouster of an unpopular president in 15 years. There is an almost palpable sense of hope, that the promises of Edsa II—or some of them, at any rate—might finally be realized.

The reason for the change in the air is obvious: President Macapagal-Arroyo's Dec. 30 decision to step down in 2004.

Much has already been said about her stunning Rizal Day remarks (possibly the best-written of the hundreds of speeches she has given). But much—and this is only as it should be—will continue to be said about them, because they are without precedent in our history.

The President saw an enormous obstacle standing in the way of national healing and economic recovery: a culture of "endless politicking." Because she was an accomplished politician—as a senator, she earned the distinction of having won the highest number of votes in election history; as President, she had an unofficial group of supporters who were already campaigning for 2004—she was also part of the problem. Unlike other politicians, however, she had the intellectual honesty to see that she was indeed part of the problem and must therefore be part of the solution.

Those who doubt her sincerity and question her timing miss the point. She has made her decision, changing the political landscape by essentially removing herself from it. She has called attention to the blight of "too much politics," and prompted or hastened the formation of citizens' groups who seek to drain the landscape of the stagnant waters of politics. To praise her for doing the right thing is not to forget the scandals that brought her to power or the mistakes she made in the exercise of that power. It is to recognize the sacrifice of her ambition, and to acknowledge the sense of hope that is, once again, in the air.

No comparison

LAST year, on the first anniversary of Edsa II, we reminded the political opportunists on both sides of the fence—the presumptuous Council on Philippine Affairs, the elusive People's Consultative Assembly, the contentious Partido ng Masang Pilipino—that contrary to their pronouncements, People Power "cannot be summoned at will" or "press-released" into existence.

One wonderful anecdote should suffice to demonstrate why. When the 11 pro-Estrada senators—Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Francisco Tatad, Anna Dominique Coseteng, Blas Ople, Robert Jaworski, Ramon Revilla, John Osmeña, Vicente Sotto, Teresa Aquino-Oreta and Gregorio Honasan—blocked the opening of the second Jose Velarde envelope on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2001, popular outrage immediately spilled into the streets. Immediate—partly because the leaders of the Couples for Christ Catholic renewal group, a Filipino spiritual phenomenon that has grown into an international movement, just happened to be wrapping up their monthly meeting at the Christ the King church in Greenmeadows, Quezon City at the same late hour. Thus, literally within minutes, the Edsa Shrine, which was only a couple of kilometers away, was suddenly host to hundreds of Couples for Christ leaders, who wasted no time in spreading the word through their extensive networks.

Now this is a detail that those who presume to control People Power or speak for it choose to gloss over. But the truth is, the second Edsa was exactly like the first: by and large, each was a spontaneous social phenomenon. While the anti-Marcos movement in 1986 and the oust-Estrada campaign in 2001 were both highly organized, much of what actually came to pass was not, and could not have been, the product of any mere human plan.

Review body found Impsa deal defective

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told newsmen last Saturday that a review committee had found some defects in the supplements to the controversial Impsa deal. The original contract itself is all right, he said, it's the supplements that are defective. No wonder officials from the Ramos, Estrada and Macapagal administrations are scrambling to dissociate themselves from it and point accusing fingers at one another.

Now then, if the Macapagal administration found the contract's supplements defective, why did it not suspend or cancel the contract as it did with the Piatco deal? The controversies over the Piatco and Impsa deals are almost identical. Review committees found the original contracts all right. However, numerous supplements signed later that amplified and altered details of the original contracts, plus additional costs, were found to be disadvantageous to the government. The Piatco review committee recommended the cancellation of the contract. President Macapagal-Arroyo immediately suspended it. Why was the same thing not done to the Impsa deal?

The original contract was for a build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer (BROT) deal. But the original was changed, at the request of Impsa, to put "rehabilitate" first, for which Impsa asked to be paid first, according to Camacho. An independent auditing firm from New Zealand found that Impsa was reimbursed or paid US$50 million (P265 million at current exchange rates) which Impsa has neither earned nor spent yet. The cash-short Macapagal administration has not attempted to get that money back. Instead, it is taxing the people some more—the professionals, showbiz people and athletes particularly—to raise the needed cash.

* * *

The most painful thing about the 10-percent value added tax on the fees of professionals, on top of the 20-percent withholding tax, will hit people who can afford it least.

Let's take the doctors as example. The law requires doctors to add 10-percent VAT to their fees which they will then remit to the Bureau of Internal Revenue every month. In other words, it is the patients who will pay the VAT. *Eh*, the people can hardly afford to pay their doctors' fees, *dadagdagan mo pa*. They can hardly afford the expensive medicines which the government is doing little to make available to them at affordable prizes, *bibigyan mo pa ng dagdag na gastusin*.

"We have no choice," Camacho told the forum. "We need the money. We are not collecting enough taxes."

But we have a choice. Spend less. In any home, if the family income is not enough to meet all expenses, the father tells his family members "*Magtipid tayo*" and the mother pinches pennies to make ends meet. Isn't that what a good father and mother of the nation should do?

Go through the budget and you will find expenditures that are unnecessary and a waste of the people's money. Why do government officials, especially those already receiving very high salaries, get numerous allowances in addition to their high salaries? Why does the hard-pressed Juan de la Cruz have to buy them brand new luxury cars when they already have two or more vehicles? Why do we waste half of the budgets for public works projects to bribe squatters when the law does not mandate this? Why are there two or more budgets for public works projects: one, the regular DPWH budget and the other the pork barrel disbursed by congressmen and senators? The job of legislators is to legislate, not to be another DPWH. So why are they doing the job of the DPWH? Telling it what projects to undertake, which contractor to hire and how to disburse the money? In the latter process, only half of the budget goes to the project; the other half goes to private pockets.

If the government asks the people to do some belt-tightening to be able to pay higher taxes, it would be the first to tighten belts. Why will the people share more of their little, hard-earned money with the government, when they see that their taxes are just being wasted?

* * *

Incidentally, it has been proven and admitted that the VAT is the most inefficient of taxes. The leakage in VAT is about 60 percent. That means that more than half of VAT that should be collected is not being collected. So why doesn't the government plug the holes first before expanding the VAT system? Or why not change to another system? We already know the VAT doesn't work effectively, why continue with it?

Experience has shown that our tax system is full of loopholes and that a big chunk of taxes that should be paid are not being paid. Besides, BIR people themselves steal the taxes that are already paid.

Our tax laws are too complicated and complex. The big businessmen who should be paying more, hire smart accountants to avoid paying the correct taxes. The poor salaried employee, on the other hand, is already deducted a 20-percent withholding tax even before he gets his pay. There is no escaping this 20-percent tax bite even if he is entitled to pay less.

The sensible thing is to simplify our taxation, giving little room for accountants to manipulate figures and making it easy for those who can't afford accountants. The simplest is graduated gross taxation on income with those earning more, paying more. But then, many of our officials and big businessmen would be hit adversely and naturally they would find arguments against it. So the path of least resistance is the status quo, let the poor pay more and more and let the rich get away with murder.

A time to witness

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(There's something worth recalling apart from Edsa II, though it happened in another part of the world. That is the life and time of Anne Frank, the teenage girl who bequeathed a diary that has turned out to be a history of the race. I spoke last Friday at the opening of the exhibit on Anne Frank at the San Agustin Museum. This is an abbreviated version of the speech. The full version appears online at www.inq7.net)

I REMEMBER a conversation I had with Lino Brocka, the legendary Filipino movie director many years ago. It was with a group of friends, during the time of Corazon Aquino. Brocka was bothered by something that was happening in the country, which was the proliferation of paramilitary groups, vigilantes and religious cultists, who were leading the government's counterinsurgency campaign. At one point, a team of cops swooped down on a school here in Manila where refugees from the Visayas had found temporary shelter after fleeing the war in their area.

The men, women and children were dragged out of bed and lined up outside. There, men with their heads covered by baskets, with small holes in them for the eyes and mouth, walked around, eyeing them one by one. I do not now recall how many of the refugees they picked out as combatants. I do know that a picture of them appeared in the newspapers and evening news. That was what bothered Brocka most of all.

A fierce defender of human rights, Brocka expostulated, "We are back to the time of the Japanese." "And we, writers and artists, are called upon again to bear witness."

I don't know why, but it suddenly occurred to me to say, "Like Anne Frank." He seized on it with a passion, and said, "Yes, like Anne Frank."

If there is any name that has become synonymous with bearing witness, it is that of Anne Frank. She was the 13-year-old girl who kept a diary while hiding in the backroom of a warehouse in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, amid the death and madness swirling around her. And who eventually died of typhus in a concentration camp, another victim of the monstrosity that later came to be known, with all its Biblical resonance of apocalyptic destruction, as the Holocaust. Or so she would have been, except for her diary. That diary has come to prick the conscience of the human race as nothing in that deadening fury has ever done. It has given a dimension to the horror of the Holocaust that even the sight of emaciated bodies huddled in the cold while waiting their turn in the gas chamber could not do.

The casual murder of a girl in the full flush of life, whose only crime was to have been born to a "wrong" race made the mind reel from its unspeakable iniquity. The blithe destruction of all that was pure and innocent and good made the mind rebel from its incomprehensible gratuitousness. The wholesale annihilation of life in the name of building something larger than life made the mind riot from its wanton obscenity.

There are many ways to fight tyranny, or more than tyranny the swirling oppression of death and madness.

One can do so by taking up arms against it and pushing it back with the power of physical force. The Jews in the ghettoes of Poland who banded together to form the Resistance against the German occupation army did so. The Allied Forces who banded together and turned back the tide of the war on the shores of Normandy did so. The Filipinos who fled to the hills or wormed into the underbelly of the city and formed an underground movement against Ferdinand Marcos did so.

One can fight tyranny by speaking out against it and pushing it back with the power of moral force. That is what many American writers like Mark Twain did during the turn of the last century, protesting the American imperial venture as contrary to the spirit of the founding fathers, notwithstanding public support for that venture, stoked in no small way by the yellow press of Randolph Hearst. That is what writers like Mikhail Bukgakov and Alexandr Solzhenitsyn did during the Stalinist and post-Stalinist periods in communist Russia, when to speak one's truth was to court relentless persecution, even death. That is what journalists like Jose Burgos and Eugenia Apostol did during the twilight years of martial law, when Marcos had become more desperate and therefore more dangerous.

Or one can fight tyranny by bearing witness to one's times, or professing one's truth, two ways of saying the same thing. And in the end, as that invariably leads to, affirming the human spirit itself.

That is what Anne Frank did. The power of Anne Frank's diary does not come from a voice raised in fury at the unfairness of the world, though it has echoes of it. It does not come from a voice raised like a fist at the intolerance of the world, though it has echoes of it too. The power of Anne Frank's diary comes from its simple expositions of the dreams and longings, the fears and worries, the small triumphs and exultations of a 13-year-old girl. One who, though precociously talented and mature, might very well be our own teenage daughters or sons. One who, though caught up in the most extraordinarily frightening circumstances, could still talk of the most common and universal situations that stoke love and laughter.

In the end, that very ordinariness, that very commonness, takes on the aspect of an extraordinary and uncommon act of defiance. It is Anne Frank's affirmation of the power of love that bitterly indicts the hatred and strife around her. It is Anne Frank's affirmation of the power of laughter that arraigns the despair and intolerance around her. It is Anne Frank's affirmation of the power of life that damns the death and madness around her.

(To be concluded)

The best time to amend Charter is now

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHAT President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent revelation that she favors constitutional change through a constitutional convention did was to bring the issue of Charter change, to borrow the words of LDP chief Sen. Edgardo Angara, out of the closet and into the open. Now everyone is talking about it and debating it even within the various political parties. For instance, House minority leader Carlos Padilla of the LDP says he will oppose Charter change, but change is being espoused vigorously by his LDP colleagues such as Assistant Minority leader Constantino Jaraula, Rep. Butz Aquino and Angara himself.

* * *

Unanimity appears to be snowballing that Charter change is badly needed, and as Speaker Jose de Venecia, who claims to have been espousing it for 12 years now as secretary general of the parliamentarian bloc in the House, puts it, the debate now among congressional leaders as well as those in business, the academe and NGOs, is the manner of amending the Constitution and when to do so. The Senate and the House appear to be in near-unanimity about change but they are on a collision course on when and how to effect it. In the House, 121 members from all the major political parties support the idea of a constituent assembly, whereas in the Senate, the con-con idea appears to dominate. But this only shows the vigor of our democracy.

* * *

De Venecia, reacting to GMA's declaration, told this columnist he is very elated that his crusade for Charter change is bearing fruit. He recalled that he and House colleagues like Jimmy Lopez, Francisco Sumulong, Edel Amante, Exequiel Javier, Gualberto Lumauig, Jose Tan Ramirez and Tim Adasa had made a condition for supporting Fidel Ramos in the early '90s his agreement to pushing Charter change.

As JDV looks at it, a shift to the parliamentary form of government will see less corruption as the prime minister and the Cabinet could fall on that issue, unlike in our presidential set-up where impeachment of the top leader is next to impossible. Then too, the present set-up, he opines, has a built-in prescription for gridlock in Congress, whereas in the inevitable coalition of forces in a parliamentary set-up, two parties will eventually emerge to replace the current multi-party system. JDV also stressed that parliamentary elections will be less expensive than those in our current system.

* * *

As to the timing, the Speaker feels Charter change is best effected now, through a constituent assembly, inasmuch as postponing it until after the 2004 elections would inevitably result in its deferment until after 2010. This is because those elected in 2004 may be expected to campaign for a status quo until after 2010. Besides, after the winners of 2004 are elected in a very expensive election, it would be unfair to yank them out of office for a new system, he opined.

* * *

What is the "best time" to effect Charter change? In 1993, people said it wasn't the right time as there were so many problems besetting the nation, and they said so again in 1997. I agree with JDV that this is the best time to have Charter change, as we have a sitting President who professes to be non-political. Moreover, we are on the eve of the 2004 elections which could be for members of the national assembly.

* * *

As to means to effect change, a con-con or a constituent assembly, I submit that an assembly is the more practical and less costly method. In an election for con-con delegates, it's easy to predict that the majority would be relatives of those in power or who lost in the elections of 2001, or those backed up by big vested interests, as they are the ones with the machinery to run in what's bound to be as expensive as the regular election. On the other hand, the members of Congress, who are the democratic representatives of the people, already have the staff and offices and can divide their time between Charter and legislative sessions.

* * *

As Nationalist People's Coalition Rep. Gerry Espina likes to point out, in its nearly 230 years the US Constitution underwent all its revisions through a constituent assembly, while our 1935 Constitution was amended three times and our 1973 Constitution four times, also through this method. Allegation is raised that Congress could be suspect in a constituent assembly. But it's good to remember that the current House has been on good behavior in the past two years (except for the MJ aberration of a handful) and quite stable and hard-working, passing all the legislations. By contrast, it's the Senate that has been rocked by endless troubles, intrigue and gridlock, which have driven many people to supporting a unicameral assembly.

* * *

The popular Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja-Rodriguez has closed his stint here and in an article he expressed great sadness at leaving and profound admiration for the Filipinos. Among the traits he admires most, he says, are the Pinoys' "incomparable sense of hospitality" which has proved that "the happiest moments in life are those we spend among friends, that being with friends multiplies our joys and divides our sorrows," our "system of values" and our "marvelous way of looking at life" that have made living among us "truly unique and exceptional." Pantoja-Rodriguez stressed that never in his extensive diplomatic career has he felt so happy as he has in this country.

I'm not surprised at the Spanish ambassador's feelings, for not too long ago, Cambodian Ambassador Ek Sereywath told me that two former colleagues in the diplomatic community here, Ambassador Cardenas of Peru, who was since assigned to Singapore, and Ambassador Dato Harris of Brunei, who was transferred to Oman in the Middle East, have written the envoys about how they sorely miss Manila. Their advice to Sereywath and the other envoys: enjoy it while it lasts, for the flavor of life in Manila is incomparable.

'Demarcosification'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

GRIM reminders of Marcos and martial rule are always helpful nudges to our collective memories. Of late, there were two. There was the destruction of the giant Marcos bust in Benguet that was hailed by many. Then there was the critically acclaimed Chito Rono period movie "Dekada '70." You can add a third, the much belated exposé of the Marcos loyalist leaders against Imelda, but which others have viewed with skepticism.

I find it disturbing that today's young who were born and raised in the post-Marcos years are not reminded and taught enough about this dark passage in the life of the nation with the Marcoses, largely due to the short memories of those who lived through it. That is why every iota of effort to remind us is an inch nearer to the ideal which is the final closure of the Marcos chapter in our nation's life.

An effort toward that end was launched late last year in Mindanao. This is the first volume of the book "Turning Rage Into Courage: Mindanao Under Martial Law" published by MindaNews Publications under the editorship of former PDI columnist Carolyn O. Arguillas.

The publishers deem its publication as an act of courage in itself. Not that there was anything to fear. But how can one ever truly document the martial law years in Mindanao? One certainly cannot keep track of all the Marcos victims. To begin with, many have passed away, including those whose voices were summarily silenced. Some are still grieving over the loss of loved ones who disappeared. Mindanao had the most number of human rights violations under martial law. Others are now comfortably ensconced in government positions. So the publishers are truly correct in saying that coming out with the book is an act of courage that for many years "only remained in the realm of the *damgo*."

The book gathers together a motley blend of Mindanawons who each had a story, a poem and a song to share: children of departed human rights advocates, writers and poets (Salah Jubair, Jose Torres Jr., Edith Eco, Freddie Navarro Salanga, Eman Lacaba, Emil Corrales, Boy Mordeno, etc.), politicians (Nene Pimentel, Roger Antalan, etc.), NGO workers (Irene Santiago, Gus Miclat, Abas Candao, etc.), religious (Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, Fr. Jun Mercado, Sr. Juliet David, Paring Bert Alejo, Fr. Picx Picardal, etc.), former detainees (Bro. Karl Gaspar, Mac Tiu, etc.), academicians (the Rodils, Don Pagusara, etc.), songwriters (Saro Banares, Lolita Carbon, Joey Ayala), etc., etc.

Some were just babies then. Ding Ilagan was a boy of 4 years when his father, the late Davao human rights lawyer Laurente Ilagan, was detained in Bicutan and charged with rebellion. "Little did I know that my father was sacrificing family life and even putting his very life on the line by taking the cudgels for those who were oppressed."

Nikki Philline dela Rosa relates that her first glimpse of the world included "barbed wires because my father was detained when I was barely seven months old." Liwayway Ester Magaway recalls the time in 1973 when she was 8 years old when her Tatay was sacked from his company in Cotabato for organizing a union there. Vanessa Almeda remembers the time in her childhood when a helicopter hovered above and out alit Imelda Marcos. This was in Surigao City "where the Marcoses were considered gods."

Dindo Balucos was born in 1972 in a small barrio. Later as a gradeschooler, he remembers how they were made to sing over and over the Marcos propaganda song "Bagong Lipunan." But he especially remembers their neighbor Nong Sebio who was summarily shot in his own house in the presence of his wife Nang Teria, by the paramilitary CHDF.

There are fond remembrances of the more well-known who perished in those dark years: of Zamboanga City Mayor Cesar Climaco and Archbishop Quevedo's poem and homily on the brutal slaying of Fr. Tullio Favali.

There is the poignant poem in memory of a *desaparecido* friend "Waiting (for Fe)" by Daniel Belarmino Ong who grew up in Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao where he witnessed the horrors of war against the Moro communities in the early 1970s.

No, this book is not just about leftists and for leftists. It is about everyone and it is for everyone, politically uninclined or not. The book's introduction says it well: "Those who survived those years owe it to today's and tomorrow's generation to let them know what it was and how it was like then, to let them appreciate more the value of freedom, of love, of service, of death. No, this is not a book about simply remembering. This is a book about taking a stand, about sacrificing personal dreams, and even lives, for causes larger than one's own."

In a way, there would have been no need for reminders such as this. For around us we see remnants of Marcosian culture: in the continuing despicable practice of torture by the military and police to extract a suspect's confession, in grandstanding and self-serving politicians who wish to extend their terms via Cha-cha, in egocentric local government officials who behave like warlords—like the city mayor of my place who moves around in three heavily tinted pick-up vehicles including a police SWAT mobile all filled up with bodyguards. Perhaps having a Marcos once was not enough.

Imee Marcos was once asked by Howie Severino on TV what her own thoughts were on "closure"—meaning the resolution of all Marcos cases and the indemnification of all human rights victims. Turning to the late cartoonist Nonoy Marcelo, the congresswoman said: "What's he saying? I do not understand what he is saying by closure."

Of course she does not understand. That she is reportedly eyeing a Senate seat in 2004 means she will probably never understand.

When, oh when, shall we ever have a real, genuine, lasting demarcosification in this country?

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Let's get smart about intellectual property rights

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

EMOTIONAL issues, such as the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR), will continue to roil the international waters and ruffle feathers among policymakers, pundits and the public for the foreseeable future, as long as there is no effective global and national system for protecting the creative works of artists, musicians, filmmakers, writers, inventors, programmers and scientists, from easy theft enabled by technology and avarice.

The recent demonstration by a US trade official, William Lash, of how trivially easy it is to purchase illegally copied DVDs of the most recent Hollywood films at a popular San Juan, Manila shopping mall, touched off a tempest in a teapot recently in Manila, when he complained that no one has ever been convicted under existing IPR laws in the Philippines, despite rampant piracy of movies, music and software. But the hapless official also provoked charges of hypocrisy and the pot calling the kettle black on trade matters, in view of recent protectionist moves by the Bush administration in favor of a long-aging US steel industry.

Ordinary Filipinos are generally indifferent to the claimed loss of billions of pesos in revenues that big Western film studios, software giants and music conglomerates suffer as a result of technology-enabled illegal reproduction and outright piracy. The prevailing attitudes are shaped by a Robin Hood mentality encouraged by homegrown populists and anti-imperialists who have successfully demonized big multinational companies that own these products. There is no lack of rationalization for buying pirated goods, in the perceived wealth of the rock stars, software moguls and greedy chief executives, that are being ripped off.

At the heart of the piracy issue is surely ambivalence to the still unfamiliar and problematic concept of "intellectual property." But there is also the law of supply and demand. With pricing structures that are wildly inapplicable to markets like the Philippines, the black market for ripped-off movies, music and software is inevitable. (Which is not to justify its existence, only to explain it.)

There are several mechanisms by which governments typically grant intellectual property status and protections to creative works and inventions. The most common is copyright protection, which covers everything from literary and journalistic works such as books and essays; music compositions and performances; paintings, sculptures and similar artistic works. Copyright for an authored work, control of its reproduction and derivatives, are generally endowed in its creator and his heirs or estate for a period extending to 50 years after his death, unless of course he contracts it out to others.

Patents comprise another broad category of IPR protection which is very little understood by the general public. Patents are meant to encourage invention and innovation by granting, temporarily, exclusive economic rights to exploit one's own invention or innovation, in exchange for a full disclosure and documentation of the nature and details of the invention or discovery. Seventeen years is the traditional amount of time during which a patent holder can legally prevent others he has not explicitly authorized, from exploiting or using his patented discovery or invention.

Once the patent period expires, the invention becomes part of the public domain, hence, a permanent and integral part of the intellectual and technological patrimony of mankind, which anyone can exploit commercially or educationally. A famous example is the patent once held by a large multinational pharmaceutical firm on the production of human insulin using genetically modified E. coli bacteria. Previous to this patented GMO from 1983, diabetics had to get their insulin from hogs, a somewhat risky business. Once in the public domain, any pharmaceutical firm can use the documented information in the patent to make human insulin using this process.

The sheer scope of the IPR issue, covering as it does everything from literary works to biotechnology and beyond, deserves a dispassionate treatment and careful discernment of where our long-term national interests really lie. Inevitably, we can only conclude that we must become a part of the "legitimate world" where intellectual property is respected and rewarded in proportion to its true worth in the marketplace.

At the moment, it may seem that we are part of the "have-nots" in the world when it comes to intellectual property holdings, and so what abiding interest do we have in IPR protection and enforcement? Even the poverty of our country is used as a rationalization for ripping off the work of others. But that may not always be so. Filipino creations are also the target of pirates.

There is a lot to be gained in going legit, even if slowly, when it comes to software and entertainment products like videos, music and games. By going legit and slowly but surely enforcing pertinent IPR laws and agreements, the Philippines can attract serious foreign investment in software development ventures, entertainment industry projects and similar high-value enterprises. We certainly cannot expect to get such investments in an atmosphere of rampant lawlessness and complete disrespect for the intellectual property rights of others.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Report of sexual abuse in the convent

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

IN SPITE of reports of improper sexual conduct by some Catholic priests in the United States, priests, nuns and other religious personnel in the Philippines continue to enjoy the respect of a majority of the faithful.

Once in a while, we read stories of Filipino priests being accused of child molestation or taking advantage of unwary female parishioners. But these incidents (assuming they are true) are more the exception rather than the rule. The good image of the neighborhood's "*padre*" remains intact.

Last Jan. 6, the INQUIRER published a report of Agence France Press (AFP), an international news agency based in Paris, France, that "as many as 40 percent of nuns in the United States have been sexually abused, often by a priest or another nun, according to an independent study detailed Sunday in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper."

The report went on to state that "while most of the abuse came at the hands of a male family member, some 9 percent of those abuse cases were at the hands of a priest, nun or other clergy member.".

The INQUIRER had a follow-up story on that news on Jan. 9, this time it was prepared by its Mindanao bureau. It reported that a "nuns' group in Mindanao has recommended feminist education among sisters and women who work for the Church as a deterrent to sexual abuse committed by either our brothers and sisters inside the Church."

In the middle of the story appeared the following sentence: "A recently released study showed that 40 percent of nuns in the United States had been abused by priests or other nuns."

A priest from Bacolod City was upset by the apparent discrepancy between the "40 percent" and "some 9 percent" figures mentioned in the Jan. 6 report. He wrote: "Some 9 percent" of 'as many as 40 percent' comes to no more than 3.6 percent. A figure of 3.6 percent religious women being abused by priests and other religious women is 3.6 too many. It is a far cry from 40 percent."

Wrong math

He lamented the fact that the "40 percent" data was picked up by the reporter who wrote the Jan. 9 news and another priest whose letter to the editor was published by the newspaper. He finds this "a seriously wrong distortion and very careless reporting, which slanders a whole group of people that I think it demands a prominently placed apology and correction in PDI."

I am no mathematician but the reader raised a valid point. The "40 percent" cited in the lead paragraph of the Jan. 8 news does not jibe with the "9 percent" breakdown that appeared at the latter part of the report.

Something must have gone wrong somewhere in the course of the preparation of the AFP dispatch. An important background information may have been overlooked or an explanatory statement was waylaid between the time it left the writer's computer and was fed to the transmission facilities.

But whatever may be the reason, I do not think the INQUIRER should be faulted for the mix-up in figures. The subject news report was supplied by a reputable international news agency whose track record for credible and well-written news reports and articles remains solid. In the absence of glaring mistakes, the INQUIRER, as a matter of policy, publishes the news feeds of the international news agencies it subscribes to in the form they are submitted.

But the situation is different for the Jan. 9 news that reported that "a recently released study showed that 40 percent of nuns in the United States had been abused by priests or other nuns."

The wire dispatch on which that news was based did not categorically state that the abuse was the sole handiwork of priests and nuns. It used the words "often by a priest or another nun." In effect, it means there were people other than priests and nuns who performed the abusive acts.

To the layman, the omission of the word "often" may look too small to be bothered about. But not for the men and women of the cloth who hold dearly their clean name and reputation. The errant word means a lot if only to soften the heavy blows that their calling have been receiving lately.

The INQUIRER regrets the error. Mea culpa.

Filipino priest

In the same letter, the reader complained about the way the newspaper reported in its Jan. 7 issue the return to Camarines Sur of the remains of Filipino nurse Debbie Remorozo who was killed in Manchester, England in December last year. In that story, reference was made to "a certain Fr. Claro Conde" who broke the news of Remorozo's death to her parents.

The reader said "Father Conde is a Filipino Redemptorist priest in good standing and listed in the 2002 Catholic directory. He's not under any cloud, as your reporter's 'a certain' seems to imply and he's the only one by that name listed in the directory.

"Father Conde has been working with Filipinos in Britain for some years and will be more than happy to give your reporters information about the murder and the difficulties of Filipinos in the UK.

"The term 'a certain' is used very frequently in PDI, usually in the context of a crime. That's understandable when all the reporter can get from the people around is that the suspect was 'Dodong' or whatever. But sometimes it seems as if the reporter isn't able or doesn't want to check out with the appropriate authorities who a particular person is, e.g., 'a certain Sgt. Dela Cruz' when it would be so easy to get his proper name from the AFP."

The reader cannot be faulted for feeling uncomfortable with the use of the word "certain" to describe someone he knew personally. At first blush, the word gave the impression that his colleague was not what he represented himself to Remorozo's grieving parents.

The head of the INQUIRER's Southern Luzon news bureau explained that there was no intention to denigrate or degrade the stature of Father Conde with the use of the word "certain." It was resorted to because the reporter did not know Father Conde personally and he merely relied on the statement given by Remorozo's father. Since there was no assurance that Father Conde's name was correctly heard, the reporter played safe and used the questioned word to describe him.

I think no malice was intended in the use of the subject word. It is standard practice for reporters to use words like "certain," "introduced himself as" or "appeared to be" if they are unsure about the identity of a person named in their reports.

Now that the reader has mentioned a Catholic Directory, will he be kind enough to tell us where the newspaper can secure a copy or, better still, if he has an extra copy, to lend it to us?

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

A demand for order and maturity

THOSE who oppose amending or changing the Constitution argue that this will fan suspicions that President Macapagal-Arroyo, after categorically disavowing any presidential ambitions, would return to Malacañang through the backdoor with a shift from the presidential to a parliamentary system of government. The other argument says that the best time to amend the Constitution is right at the beginning of a president's term, which means 2010 at the earliest. We ask: What do they expect to see in 2010 that would make Charter change more palatable than now?

Both their arguments are seriously flawed. They are based on mere suspicion and conjecture. The first presupposes that the President cannot keep her word; the second, that the President elected in 2004 would be more trustworthy and thus, could be trusted with the enormous task of Charter reform.

Most of those opposing Charter change, while shrill with arguments against the parliamentary system, are silent on the defects of the bicameral presidential system which have done much damage to this country. They ignore the recurring gridlock between the executive and the legislative as well as the present gridlock in the Senate that has blocked the passage of vital legislation.

The movement for Charter change is a product of the current political system's inability to respond quickly, effectively and, in these parlous times, heroically to changing political, economic and social realities here and around the world.

Change is the key to survival. There are certain things that are constant—love, loyalty, commitment to principle and the irresistible force of superior ideas—but other inventions of man grow stale and ineffectual with age. And when the time comes to improve on such inventions or discard them in favor of new ones, the best thing to do is husband this change to minimize the damage and bring out needed reforms.

Many people thought the People Power of 1986 was the defining event in our modern history. It was supposed to raise the nation's political consciousness and vigilance against moral backsliding by national leaders. But the election of Joseph Estrada in 1998 proved us all wrong. And the nation had to correct its mistake by launching another revolt in January 2001. Such upheavals are costly to the nation. It is something that Charter change in 2003 can address. A third Edsa revolt is the last thing this nation needs.

It can be said that Charter change is a demand for order and a demand for maturity. People need not go to the streets to bring down a president. We shift the action to the parliamentary arena and confine the political damage there, and that is infinitely more beneficial to a nation that has not found its true soul in the 1987 Constitution.

—ALDWIN REQUEJO,
UP Bliss, Quezon City

DTI still fine-tuning registration system

WE take this opportunity to address the concerns aired by Samuel B. Palaganas in his letter on Jan. 11, 2002 titled, "Red tape at the DTI."

The standard procedure for registration of business names through provincial or regional offices of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) entails the verification of names by the concerned office with the system in the head office in Manila. Previously, this was done via a manual and time-consuming method. Over the last few months, however, Secretary Mar Roxas II has prioritized the improvement of this procedure by ordering the installation of a computerized on-line registration and verification system.

As with all new systems, our registration system had to undergo numerous testing and fine-tuning phases, unfortunately causing delays and backlogs in the registration process. Based on our investigation, the delay experienced by Palaganas was a result of the backlog during the pilot-testing period, the same time that he processed his application. Due to this, the DTI Pangasinan office— through no fault of its own—was unable to expeditiously process the application.

We apologize for the inconvenience caused by the limited operational system to all business name registration applicants. We are, however, trying our very best to normalize the full implementation of the new system within the month. We reassure all businessmen and entrepreneurs that the DTI, in seeking to cut down on red tape and bureaucracy in the DTI, is committed to making the conduct of business as easy, uncomplicated and cost-efficient for everyone.

—FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ,
assistant secretary,
Consumer Welfare and Trade Regulation Group, DTI,
6/F Trade and Industry Building,
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City

Have ECC and GSIS suspended payment on medical benefits?

I WOULD like to ask for your help in requiring the Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to reimburse our medical expenses incurred in connection with illnesses acquired and which were recognized and accepted as work-connected.

I am one of the many government employees who have been receiving medical reimbursement for our sickness. However, the GSIS and ECC decided to hold payment for our medical expenses since November 2002. As a result, many of us can barely cope with the medical expenses, particularly hemodialysis. In fact, I know two patients who died recently because they could not have their regular dialysis due to financial constraints.

We have been constantly inquiring from the GSIS and they kept saying that it was the ECC that ordered them to stop reimbursing our medical expenses. However, the ECC also claimed that they did not order anything to that effect. In fact, in a telephone conversation on Jan. 9, I was told that all reimbursements are totally suspended. There was no money to pay. Maybe the money was used to buy paintings like that of Juan Luna.

I and the many retired government employees who contracted illnesses in the line of duty, are appealing for help to air our problem and grievances to the public so the government will be reminded of its moral and legal obligation to honor its commitment to us. We have spent the best years of our lives serving the government and yet it does not want to compensate us for the illnesses we acquired while in service.

—VICENTE C. MALLARI JR.,
4th Street cor. Creek Drive,
Marymount Village, Anos,
Los Baños, Laguna 4030

Skewed defense of VAT protest

I WAS completely taken aback by your editorial on Jan. 17 titled "Unequal burden," which said that actors, entertainers and professionals, who had supposedly been enjoying a tax holiday for the past few years, "...ought to be ashamed to let low-salaried workers continue to carry the burden of keeping the government running."

I feel that this is an incorrect understanding of the issue. First of all, the Value Added Tax (VAT) is a pass-on tax. It will not be borne by the professionals themselves but, ultimately, by all of us, consumers and users of professional services, (unless the seller of services willingly chooses to absorb the tax.) Once this VAT on professionals is imposed, a doctor who charges his patients P500 per consultation will now charge P500 plus P50 per patient. Can a poor patient afford this additional burden now? A lawyer who charges P50,000 per retainer will now add 10 percent and charge his client P55,000. Can hard-pressed small businesses afford this at this time? Can marginalized citizens still afford to hire lawyers at this rate? Under this tax scheme, an entertainer or artist will now charge an additional 10 percent of his professional fee to the movie or show producer who wants to hire his services. Can movie producers afford the additional cost?

Indeed, the reason why artists and performers in the entertainment industry are desperately trying to prevent the imposition of this tax is because they are aware that their industry is ill-equipped to absorb this tax at this time. Their very real fear is that producers will most likely hire fewer talents, produce less shows and scrimp on the quality of the shows they will produce—all to the detriment of the entire industry. On the other hand, if the industry decides to pass the cost on to the moviegoers, this may just encourage more rampant video and music piracy. Impose this tax now and the whole entertainment industry will die. The Film Development and Incentives law we passed just last year with the thought of reviving the industry will all be for naught.

This is the reason why I filed a resolution in the Senate urging the executive department, particularly the Department of Finance, to review the imposition during these economic times of the VAT on professionals and consider the possible repeal of this tax, if warranted, and to suspend its implementation in the meantime.

If the DOF does not see fit to reimpose this same tax on banks and non-bank financial intermediaries, finance companies and other institutions performing quasi-banking functions for fear that it will be passed on to banking customers in the form of higher interest rates, then why reimpose it on the rest of the professional services which will also affect the public who will avail of these services?

So you see, in fact, the burden is not "unequal," but it is equally on all of us. These are hard times we are going through, do we really want this tax to be implemented and imposed on our people now?

—SEN. VICENTE C. SOTTO III

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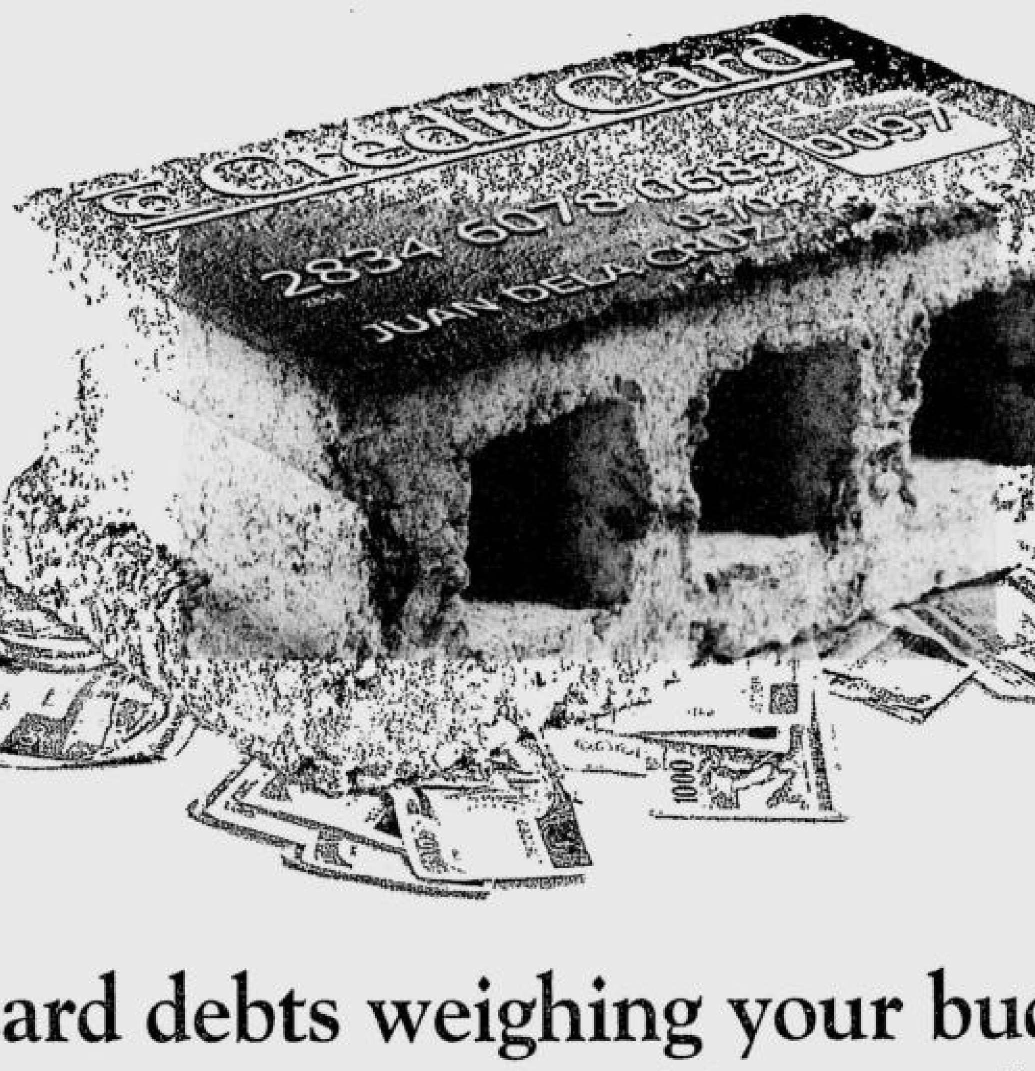

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US, UN reports clash over Iraqi arms

BAGHDAD—In almost two months of surprise visits across Iraq, UN arms monitors have inspected 13 sites identified by US and British intelligence agencies as major "facilities of concern," and reported no signs of revived weapons building, an Associated Press analysis shows.

The review of intelligence reports and UN records underlines chief inspector Hans Blix's statement that the international experts have uncovered no "smoking guns" in Iraq in almost 400 inspections since late November.

Blix flies to Baghdad on Sunday to seek more information from Iraqi officials to resolve discrepancies in accounts of old weapons of mass destruction—including, for example, of a dozen empty chemical warheads found last week. But his UN teams' work, keying on locations spotlighted by Washington and London, seems thus far to support Iraq's contention that its old weapons establishment is not making new forbidden arms.

Since those US-British assessments were issued last September and October, Washington officials have said repeatedly they have additional, undisclosed information—"solid" evidence—that Baghdad is violating the UN ban on Iraqi chemical, biological and nuclear arms. But they have made no such information public.

Blix's deputy, Demetrius Perricos, told reporters Wednesday that some intelligence tips received have been useful, but "some of them are speculations." Another UN source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on the eve of the visit by Blix and chief nuclear inspector Mohamed El Baradei that no new "actionable" intelligence was been forthcoming.

Many of the suspicions raised in the headline-making US-British reports were based on satellite imagery of Iraqi installations, remote photos taken during the inspectors' four-year absence from Iraq. Now that more than 100 UN specialists can again "see under the roofs," as Perricos put it, the alarms look less warranted.

American intelligence analysts wrote that new structures photographed at Tuwaitha, a former nuclear weapons complex south of Baghdad, might indicate a revival of weapons work. Since Dec. 4, however, inspectors from El Baradei's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have scrutinized that vast complex almost a dozen times, and reported no violations.

The CIA raised alarm in October about the al-Mutasim missile factory south of Baghdad, where the Iraqis are building their Ababil-100 short-range missiles under a UN edict prohibiting such weapons with ranges longer than 145 km.

"The size of certain facilities there," the CIA alleged, "suggests that Baghdad is preparing to develop systems that are prohibited by the UN"—that is, longer-range weapons.

After five unannounced visits to al-Mutasim in the past month, however, the UN missile experts have reported no clear evidence of such intentions. *AP*

TROUBLE in the world's No. 5 oil producer. AFP

100,000 rally in Venezuela to oust gov't

CARACAS—More than 100,000 opponents of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez marched in Caracas on Saturday after the populist threatened to quit talks aimed at ending a crisis over his leadership of the world's No. 5 oil exporter.

Holding up flags and torches and banging drums, the huge nighttime rally snaked through eastern parts of the capital where protesters jammed a major highway clamoring for Chavez to step down and call elections.

"These torches light the way for the fall of this regime," Rafael Narvaez, representative of the Coordinadora Democratica opposition alliance, told reporters.

Chavez earlier warned the government could pull out of peace talks brokered by the Organization of American States (OAS) Secretary-General Cesar Gaviria even as the international community stepped up efforts to break the South American nation's political deadlock.

The negotiations are trying to end the conflict behind a 48-day-old opposition strike that has slashed Venezuela's vital oil output, rattling global energy markets already nervous over a US-led war in Iraq.

The opposition strike, started on Dec. 2, has stoked tensions as Venezuelans deal with serious shortages of gasoline, cooking gas and some food items. The shutdown has pushed Venezuela's oil-reliant economy deeper into recession.

A tough-talking Chavez blasted his opponents as "terrorists and fascists" and said there could be no negotiations with those who are leading the strike against his government. Chavez refuses to quit or call early elections.

"We in the government . . . are considering withdrawing our team from the negotiating table because those people are showing no sign that they really want to choose the democratic path," the president said.

Opposition leaders, who accuse the former paratrooper of ruling like a dictator and charge his populist government has created economic chaos, said the OAS-backed negotiations remained the only solution to the crisis. They have vowed to stay on strike until Chavez quits.

The opposition is also demanding a nonbinding referendum Feb. 2 on Chavez's government. But the president says they must wait until August when the constitution allows a binding referendum on his mandate.

"Chavez is trying to wriggle out of this; he's cornered.

He's trying to block all the international initiatives to help Venezuela," opposition negotiator Manuel Cova told Reuters.

Chavez, who was elected in 1998 and survived a coup last year, said his government would consult with Gaviria and decide over the weekend whether to stay in the 2-month-old OAS-brokered talks, which have made little progress. *Reuters*

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Fires engulf Australia capital; 3 die

CANBERRA—A state of emergency was in force Sunday in Australia's capital after its worst-ever wildfires swept its suburbs, killing three people, forcing thousands to evacuate and destroying 388 homes, officials said.

One man died of smoke inhalation while trying to save his house, and an 83-year-old woman was found at her home in Canberra. A 37-year-old woman was also found dead at her home in the suburb of Duffy, police said.

Police patrolled charred and deserted neighborhoods following isolated cases of looting and suspicions that some fires might have been deliberately lit.

"I have been to a lot of bushfire scenes in Australia . . . but this is by far the worst," Prime Minister John Howard said Sunday.

At the height of the crisis on Saturday, firefighters called on people not to panic, but admitted they had been overwhelmed by the ferocity and magnitude of the flames. The government and church officials described it as the sort of emergency that comes once in a century or two.

Many residents reported no fire crews in their burning streets. They battled flames with garden hoses and buckets filled from swimming pools.

More than 20 percent of the city was without power Sunday morning and red hot embers fell, sparking fears more lives and homes could be lost.

A mist of fine ash blew through the streets and a thick pall of smoke hung over the city. *AP*

AUSTRALIA's worst bushfire ever.

REUTERS

US discussed attacking North, says Sokor leader

SEOUL—United States officials considered an attack on North Korea before agreeing to seek a peaceful solution to the ongoing nuclear standoff, according to South Korean president-elect Roh Moo-Hyun.

Roh told a conference on Saturday night that there were high-level US discussions about a possible attack on North Korea when he was elected in December.

"When I was elected, the situation was so acute because some US officials, who held considerable responsibility in the administration, talked about the possibility of attacking North Korea," he said.

"I then thought that no matter what differences I might face with the United States, I would stop an attack on North Korea.

"Fortunately, opinion in the United States started to change to resolving the matter peacefully." Roh, who will take office on Feb. 25, said that North Korea may opt for security guarantees and economic aid in return for renouncing its nuclear ambitions.

"From past actions, North Korea ardently hopes for security guarantees and is aggressive in its push for reform and openness," Roh said, while calling for international efforts to end the country's isolation.

Diplomatic solution

Roh has consistently called for a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis and says he supports a policy of engagement with the reclusive Stalinist regime.

The president-elect said he was ready to have "sincere and frank talks" with North Korean officials when the two Koreas hold cabinet-level rapprochement talks in Seoul this week.

US President George W. Bush, who made North Korea a charter member of his "axis of evil," has held out the prospect of economic and political support for North Korea.

Bush said last week he was considering reviving "a bold initiative, an initiative which would talk about energy and food, because we care deeply about the suffering of the North Korean people." But a diplomatic drive has so far seen no tangible progress in the standoff which flared up in October when US envoy James Kelly said North Korea had admitted running a nuclear weapons program in breach of a 1994 accord, a charge Pyongyang denies.

North Korea, which insists the nuclear crisis is an issue for Pyongyang and Washington alone, strongly opposes US efforts to internationalize the standoff.

Such efforts have included engaging Moscow and Beijing, Pyongyang's closest allies.

The North has said it is now making preparations to reactivate a nuclear plant that had been mothballed under the Agreed Framework, after Washington suspended fuel aid that was part of the 1994 deal.

North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-il has vowed that the will of the Stalinist state's people or Army would never be broken amid the ongoing nuclear standoff with the United States.

"The further the imperialists intensify their moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK (North Korea), the more dynamically its Army and people turn out to successfully build a powerful nation," Kim said in remarks carried late Saturday by the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"No force on earth can break the inexhaustible strength and indomitable will of this great Army and people who have brought about only victories pulling through all difficulties and ordeals," Kim added.

'Field guidance'

The remarks were made during his "field guidance" to see land realignment in south Phyongan province, KCNA said.

North Korea has unleashed a wave of abuse against the United States mainly via official media since Washington said in October that Pyongyang had admitted running a secret enriched uranium nuclear weapons program. *AFP*

Int'l donors pledge $2.8B for Indonesia

JAKARTA—Happy with Indonesia's fight against terror and its efforts for peace in Aceh, international donors look set this week to pledge the $2.8 billion in aid that the country is seeking.

The World Bank, which chairs a donor body called the Consultative Group on Indonesia (CGI), has already said the amount is "doable," although some donors say they are concerned about signs of government softening in one key reform area.

"The country has done its best to try and bring peace to Aceh and in arresting perpetrators of last year's Bali bombings, without a backlash from Islamic groups. So on those things alone, donors should be happy," said Jakarta-based Standard Chartered economist Fauzi Ichsan.

But the issue of price increases, the main trigger of nationwide protests in the past two weeks, could threaten to unravel some of Indonesia's hard-fought successes.

Donors, at the Tuesday and Wednesday meeting of the CGI's 30-plus bilateral donors and multilateral institutions, could decide the government is making too many concessions to the demonstrators, sacrificing much-needed economic reform in the process.

President Megawati Sukarnoputri's government has come under mounting pressure to roll back price rises in fuel, electricity and phone tariffs introduced at the beginning of the year to reduce costly subsidies that are a huge drain on the budget.

In response, the government has proposed to delay the phone charge hike and review its policy on fuel and power. But one Western diplomat said that had been enough to raise doubts over Jakarta's commitment to reform.

"Indonesia has kind of blown it with the fuel price issue.

It has really shaken donors," the diplomat said.

Indonesia has been winding back subsidies, introduced by former President Suharto, since the late 1990s as part of International Monetary Fund-led reforms. Subsidy cuts were one reason Jakarta posted a sharply lower-than-expected budget deficit last year.

Asked at a news conference last week about the government's plan to review price increases, the World Bank declined to comment directly but made clear its support for the rises. *Reuters*

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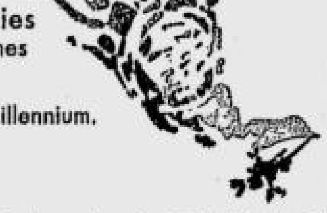

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Javier murder accused escapes; jail officials fail to inform court

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—An accused in the murder of Antique Gov. Evelio Javier has escaped from the Antique provincial jail last year but the escape was reported to the Antique Regional Trial Court only after almost three months.

In a report to Judge Rudy Castrojas of the RTC Branch 12, Chief Insp. Heracleo Severino, acting warden of the provincial jail, said Rolando Bernardino, was "already not in the custody" of the jail when he assumed the post on Oct. 25, 2002. He replaced former warden Leonardo Fangena.

Severino said they had no idea when Bernardino escaped. They conducted operations and contacted persons who might know of his whereabouts "but all these were futile," he said in a report dated Jan. 2, which was received by the court on Jan. 8.

Severino said he hoped the court would "give consideration in the delay in reporting the escape" of Bernardino.

But Castrojas, who is presiding over the murder case of Javier and five other related cases, chided Severino for the delay.

In a two-page order dated Jan. 9, the judge said the court was "extremely disappointed by the unjustified delay" in the filing of the report.

Castrojas said the "unique delay" in reporting Bernardino's escape did not speak well of Severino's stature as a ranking officer of the Philippine National Police.

"It constitutes gross neglect of duty," the judge said.

The inmate's escape comes almost three months before Castrojas issued an order denying bail to all but one of the 18 accused in the murder of Javier led by the alleged mastermind, erstwhile Marcos ally Arturo Pacificador.

In his report to the court, Severino attached his report dated Nov. 18, 2002 to Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez regarding the escape. But Perez said she had no knowledge about the escape.

"I will investigate the incident and mete out punishment," Perez said in a telephone interview.

Castrojas earlier fined Severino P3,000 for indirect contempt after the judge saw lawyer Avelino Javellana, also an accused in the Javier murder, at the SM City Mall in Mandurriao District in Iloilo City on May 25 last year without a court order to leave the provincial jail.

Severino had told the judge that jail guards conduct head counts of prisoners twice daily.

"If these were true, why was the alleged escape of Rolando Bernardino not immediately detected/discovered? Did he actually escape or was he made to escape?" said Castrojas.

Castrojas said he received "persistent" reports that "favored accused" were allowed to jail without authorization from the court.

But he said he could not act upon these reports because nobody was willing to file a written report "for fear of reprisal." He did not elaborate.

The judge warned Severino that if the reports would be confirmed, the acting warden would be sanctioned.

Pacificador said Bernardino did not tell them of his plans. An inmate, who asked not be identified, said Bernardino was suffering from advanced tuberculosis.

Anti-Estrada groups hold reunion for 'Edsa 2'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Over cheese rolls and orange juice, leaders of various groups at the forefront of People Power II here gathered to renew ties, reminisce about fond memories and reaffirm their ideals in commemoration of the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada two years ago.

Close to a hundred leaders of church groups of various denominations, farmers, workers, women, students, medical practitioners, artists held the reunion at the John Paul II Hall of the Archbishop's Palace on Thursday night.

Among the groups that joined the gathering were the Ilonggo Solidarity for the Removal of Estrada as President (I Scrap Erap), Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), the Estrada Resign Youth Movement and the Code Red, an organization of medical practitioners.

The mood was festive with many participants dressed in the trademark Estrada Resign shirts, singing anti-Estrada songs.

They recalled the events from Jan. 16 to 20, 2001 when thousands of Ilonggos poured out in the streets, calling for Estrada's ouster.

Kristin Treñas, a pediatrician and convenor of the Code Red, recalled how she cried while being interviewed by a radio station after pro-Estrada senators voted against opening the second envelope believed to be containing evidence against the ousted president during the impeachment trial.

Democracy dead

"Democracy is dead, I kept saying," she said.

Jeffrey Celiz, chair of Bayan-Panay, recalled catching a few minutes of sleep on newspapers spread out on the lawn of the Rotary Amphitheater, the protest center of Ilonggos, during lulls in rallies.

"We were practically living there," he said.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, who had called on his flock to join the protest actions, said the two historic uprisings on Edsa showed the love of the people for their country.

"He who has nothing to die for . . . has no reason for living!" said Lagdameo, quoting a line from the critically acclaimed Dekada '70, a period film on the struggle of a middle class family amid the turbulent Marcos dictatorship.

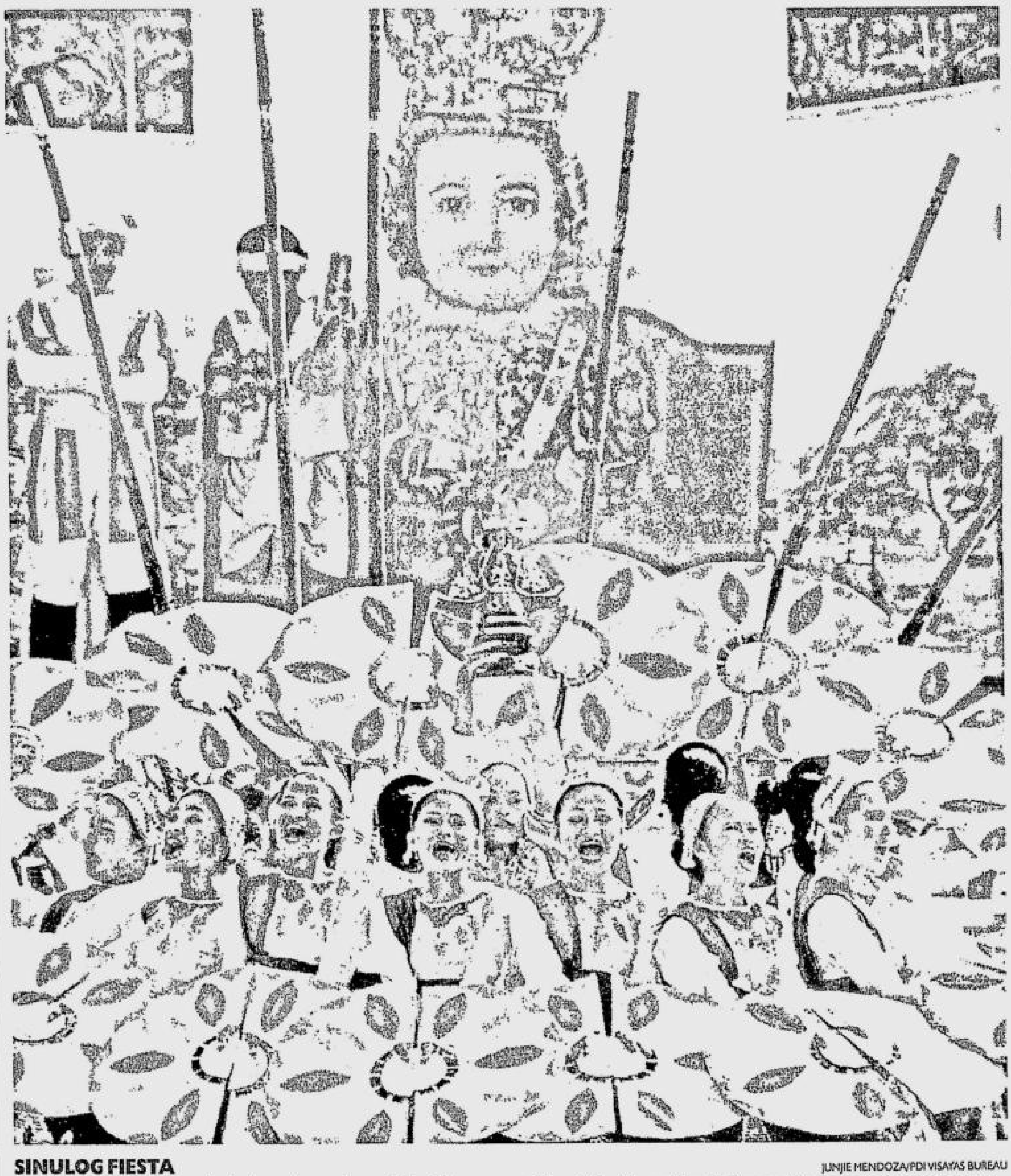
"This conscious choice to lay down our life at the altar of sacrifice for what we truly value-is what makes us fully human," said Lagdameo.

"Political change is ushered in by the blood sacrifice shed by countless mystics, revolutionaries and heroes," he added.

Sacrifice

Lagdameo said what the country "badly needs today" are "men and women willing to sacrifice for her rebirth!"

But amid the fond memories, many of the Edsa II veterans feel a growing sense of disappointment over the lack of meaningful reforms under the Macapagal administration.



SINULOG FIESTA

JUNJIE MENDOZA/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

A religious celebration explodes in various colors as Cebu City once again hosts the internationally famous Sinulog, a festival that draws thousands of local and foreign tourists to the country's "Queen City of the South."

GMA sets eyes on new program on parenthood

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo is launching on Feb. 16 an education campaign on responsible parenthood.

Ms Macapagal announced this on Saturday in a program where the University of the Assumption gave her an honorary doctorate degree in humanities.

Her population policy, she said, is based on Christian formation, which was one of the three thrusts of the university, the first archdiocesan Catholic school in the Philippines and in Asia.

The campaign, the President explained, encourages couples to practice birth spacing through "modern technologies consistent with (the) Christian faith."

She did not specify what these technologies were but stressed these were within the "Christian and constitutional principle of responsible parenthood."

"We will push this all the way until I pass on the policy hopefully to my successor," she said.

The Catholic Church is advocating only the natural family planning method and has banned other means, including the termination of pregnancy through abortion.

Controlling the growth of the country's population, now at more than 80 million, remains a controversial issue. A Senate bill on reproductive health has stirred protests from the Catholic Church.

In her speech, the President also said "quality education for all" was a continuing thrust of her administration.

During the same program held to celebrate UA's 40th founding anniversary, she instructed education officials to implement a school feeding program in the poorest villages in the country.

This, she explained, would increase the chances of Filipino children to finish school.

Reiterating a thrust she has spelled out in her first State of the Nation Address in 2001, she said every barangay would have a school building "in 2004 when I leave my office." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CEBU LAUNCHING

'FPJ Movement' to gather 6M signatures

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Freedom Peace and Justice (FPJ) National Movement was formally launched on Saturday to call on actor Fernando Poe Jr. to run for president in 2004.

Among its plans were to conduct a signature campaign and a fund drive to convince Poe to "be a compatriot" and "heed the Filipinos' call to run."

The FPJ Movement was composed of at least 20 leaders of the movement's local chapters in the country. They were mostly professionals, lawyers, engineers and businessmen who believed in the actor's potentials to steer the country.

The members maintained that their group was not a political organization. They said they were volunteers because they initiated the movement on their own.

During the launching on Saturday, the FPJ Movement passed a resolution, asking Poe "to set aside personal comfort and heed the Filipino's call to run."

The resolution also said that part of their plans was to conduct a fund raising campaign dubbed as "Piso Para Kay FPJ," which would be a symbolic contribution of the ordinary citizens who wanted Poe to be the "people's candidate" for president.

Aside from the fund drive, the members would also initiate a nationwide signature campaign, which they called as "Para sa Bayan, Lumaban ka." The FPJ Movement would act as a secretariat that would tabulate the number of signatures collected nationwide.

The group also elected a set of officers who would be spearheading the proposed initiatives and specific programs of the FPJ movement.

Elected national chair was lawyer Manny Portes and lawyer Julius Raboca, as secretary general.

They also elected a representative each from Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, Mindanao, Northern Luzon and Southern Luzon.

In their one-page resolution, the members said they believed that only Poe had the qualifications to run and the capability to win in the 2004 Presidential election.

Portes told a news conference that Poe could get an overwhelming mandate from the Filipino voters.

"We believe that FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.) can mesmerize a greater majority of the people. It is easy for him to institute changes in the economy as well as political and social reforms needed to revive our ailing society," he said.

Portes said they were confident they could gather at least six million signatures for their petition.

On Monday, he said he and other officers would be establishing the national secretariat in Manila to consolidate all the signatures gathered all over the country.

He added at least 700,000 signatures had been gathered since last October by their local chapters in Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, the Bicol Region, Negros Oriental, Samar, Leyte and some parts of Mindanao.

He said they were set to tally these signatures next week.

Portes said they hoped to present these signatures to Poe once they finished collating them. But, he added, none of them had approached the actor.

GSIS stops giving loans to workers of 30 offices

COTABATO CITY—The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has suspended the grant of loans and other member benefits to employees of at least 30 government offices, mostly from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), after the agencies continuously failed to remit premiums amounting to nearly P100 million.

Mangole Pangandaman, GSIS Cotabato City branch manager, said her office had already sent demand letters to the concerned agencies following complaints raised by some 3,000 employees.

GSIS records showed that the ARMM's Department of Education under Secretary Mahid Mutilan accumulated the biggest arrears, with over P43 million.

Mutilan, who is also ARMM vice governor, has acknowledged that the original arrears had amounted to more than P270 million.

But he said he immediately ordered its payment after taking over in 2001.

Mutilan said he inherited the problem. The provincial government of Maguindanao has accumulated P14.6 million in unpaid premiums.

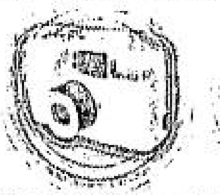
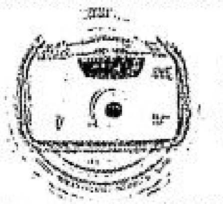
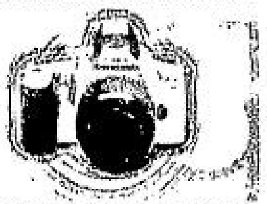
Like Mutilan, Gov. Andal Ampatuan, said his predecessor, Zacaria Candao, passed on the "debt."

Other offices with debts to the GSIS were the Bureau of Cultural Heritage, the Cotabato City National High School, Cotabato City State Polytechnic College, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Several other offices had failed to pay their premiums to the GSIS. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Canon

PHOTOWORLD 2003
Glorietta Activity Center,
Glorietta Ayala Center, Makati
January 17-22, 2003

Photography: Capturing Joys for everyone

Capturing special moments and preserving the most unforgettable occasions have always been a passion for many of us. Photography is that happiness brought by remembering the most incomparable places and settings to grace our lives. It is for these reasons that cameras have become an inevitable part of ourlives.

Through the years, Canon is proud to remain committed to its mission of inspiring people to adapt photography as a means of life. **Super East Asia Enterprises, Inc. (SEAEI)**, the exclusive distributor of Canon

Cameras in the Philippines features its complete line of cameras - from simple, easy-to-use, affordable and yet remarkable in features and design, to compact and professional cameras in Photoworld Manila 2003 being held at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati. SEAEI has lined up exciting activities that are sure to highlight the joy of photography for all people.

The Canon Camera booth offers free workshops and insights on improving photography techniques open to all part-time, amateur, and 'snapshot' photographers. And for professionals, the booth showcases

the extensive line up of Canon SLR cameras and Canon unique EF lenses. It also offers a camera clinic for free camera check up and tips on maintaining cameras and storing camera films.

A CAMERA FOR EVERYONE

As today's photography is bombarded by a plethora of high tech and easily confusing camera lines,

Canon Cameras brought photography closer to the masses of people. Its BF 800 and BF 800 Zoom cameras are equipped with fully automatic features and are setting the trends for affordable cameras with amazingly high features.

Always the innovator, Canon Cameras take the vision of helping each Filipino household own a camera in capturing life's momentous highlights. It even takes a lead step in promoting photography with the most novice photographer of them all - the children. All Canon BF Prima cameras are designed to ensure that even a 7-year old child could understand how a camera operates, and for him/her to appreciate the pictures it produces.

The BF 800 Zoom is a break through product, with zoom feature, night scene and landscape modes,

power flash, and self-timer. The zoom feature allows student and amateur photographers to explore their creativity in taking photographs. With BF 800 Zoom and other Zoom Cameras such as the Zoom 65, Canon Cameras proves its commitment of providing consumers the chance to easily own cameras and appreciate the joy of photography through features that enhances artistry and creativity.

And while prices for higher technology cameras sky rockets, Canon Cameras remain rooted in its aim of promoting photography among all sorts of photography lovers - professionals, serious amateurs, and novice snappers. Canon's fully advanced EOS System offers the convenience of an automatic camera while improving the flexibility and creativity of an SLR. The EOS 66 is ideal for newcomers to SLR photography with loads of features for its class and reasonable price.

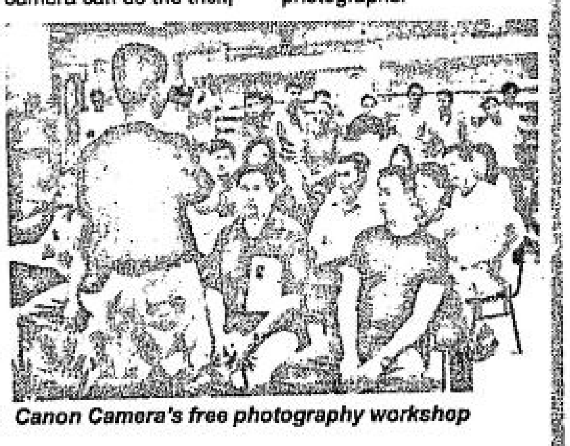
Canon Cameras also appeals to fashion and lifestyle. The super compact Super 130 and the Ixus APS cameras are ideal companion for the adventurous and sophisticated. Cool and stylish, these cameras fit in with every meeting, every party, and every adventure.

The joys of photography

Because every moment is worth capturing, a readily available camera becomes priceless and invaluable. Any automatic Canon camera can do the trick, without additional cables, printers, and accessories to worry about. A simple camera with a roll of camera film and battery are just what a person needs to capture what could become a priceless picture moment.

The most unforgettable pictures are usually produced during our most unguarded moment at a most unexpected place. With the compact and less expensive line of Canon Cameras, no historic moment could pass by without it being captured in photograph.

Whatever Canon Cameras one chooses to use, the true joy of photography remains the placing of the eyes at the glass lens, visualization of beauty through it, and waiting for the moment to click. Yet it would never become complete without seeing those moments come alive in developed films and available for viewing in pictures and in photographs.



Canon Camera's free photography workshop

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Visit the CANON Camera booth in the PHOTOWORLD 2003 EXHIBIT at the Glorietta Activity Center from January 17 to 22. View the newest camera lines from Canon, learn photography from the masters, avail of great discounts and join fun and exciting activities!

THE CANON EOS 300V AF SLR CAMERA It's all about speed

Canon Cameras, through its exclusive Philippine distributor Super East Asia Enterprises, Inc. (SEAEI) lets photographers discover a new world of possibilities as it introduces the newest and the most stylish of its SLR cameras, the EOS 300V. While it looks just smaller and more compact version of the EOS 300 SLR, its high-end features are more advanced and sophisticated. Its 29.9 x 30mm LCD display alone is 3 times larger than that of the EOS 300. The LCD, complemented by a backlight, is thus easy-to-read even in total darkness.

The features of the camera were unveiled fully during the Canon Magnificent 6's recent visit in Cebu City. Vic Sison, George Tapan, Boldy Tapales, along with Sonny Yabao, got to experience the possibilities of the EOS 300V in capturing the scenic landscapes, picturesque wonders, and beautiful people of Cebu in photographs.

The EOS 300V is a new-generation SLR camera equipped with the fastest Auto Focus (AF) in its class. It is recognized as the world's no. 1 in AF speed, performance, and width area. "What I like about the EOS 300V is its focusing speed; tremendous and really fast!" declared Sison, an exponent of 'paintography'

"I can even take a picture of a rock thrown against the wind. The focus is fast yet the accuracy of exposure does not suffer." The EOS 300V focuses quickly even with off-centered subjects. Moreover, it is equipped with a detection orientation sensor and superimposed AF point display in the viewfinder.

The EOS 300V SLR camera bears a completely new styling body for improved operation ease. It features bold, unconventional, and dramatic departure from the usual EOS camera styles. Its original camera shape, compact body, and excellent holding comfort set the trend for a new user-friendly SLR.

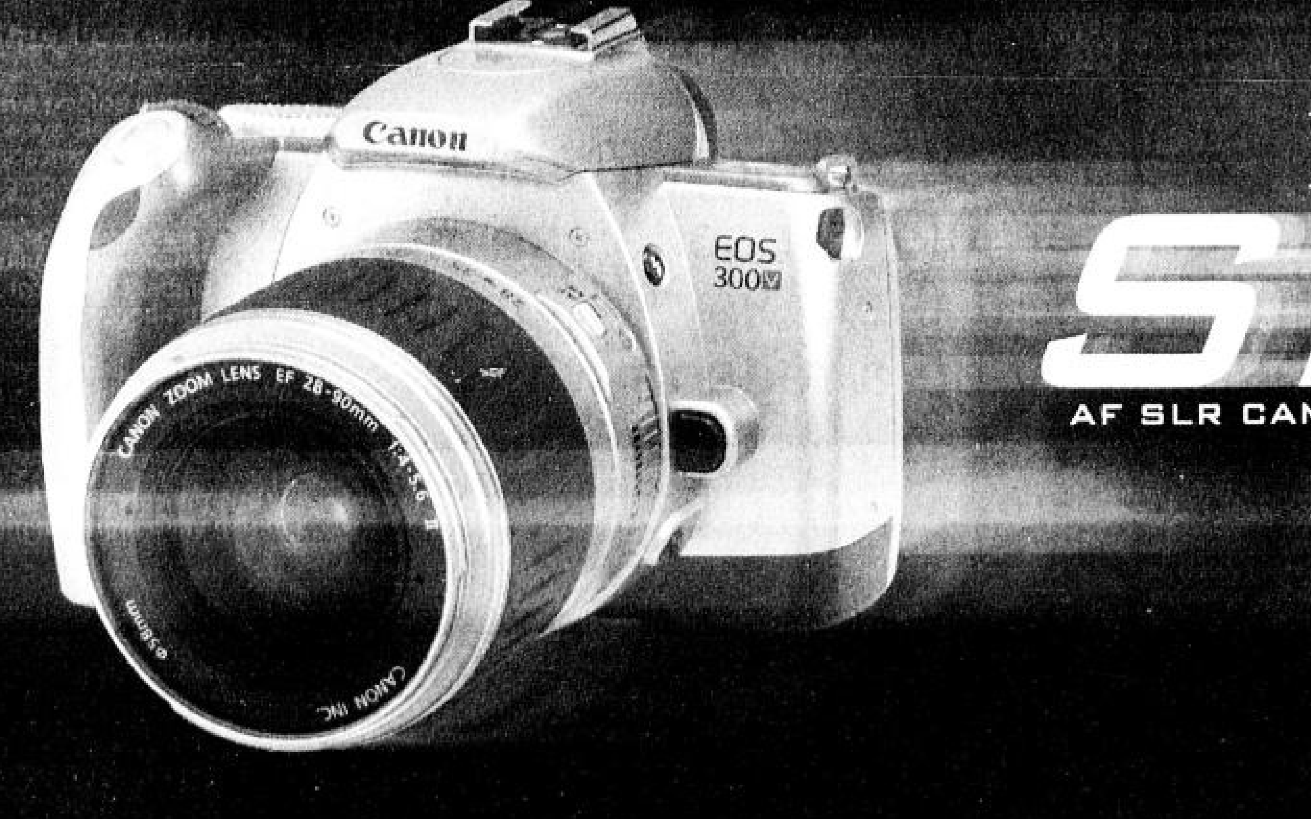
For a professional travel photographer like Tapan and a documentary photographer like Tapales, EOS 300V is definitely an ideal companion, as it is lightweight and compact. "It's also perfect for documentary," says Tapales, "it makes me appear less conspicuous." And yet its two-tone, low-contrast, metallic color scheme gives this stylish camera a truly professional look.

And for photographers who find themselves holding a camera on one hand and camera accessories or other things on another, the EOS 300V makes sure that no picture-perfect moments pass by without it being captured. Its new shape grip, flash-off mode, and the placing of the command dial on the right side, make it ideal for one-hand operation.

As an added bonus from Canon, the EOS 300V comes cheaper relative to most SLR cameras in the market today. .Award winning TV commercial director and cinematographer Tapales sums it up in saying that "Compared to most professional SLR, the EOS 300 is definitely cheaper. The metallic lens mount can be used for other lens from other SLR models." Thus, when buying the EOS 300V SLR camera, one need not buy new set of lenses, for the old ones can still be used.

The EOS 300V also features a -2.5dpt to +0.5dpt dioptric adjustment. It has a 35-zone, AF point-linked, and evaluative metering. It comes with a wide choice of accessories and different set of lenses.

Check out the complete line of camera at the Canon-Super East booth at Photoworld Manila 2003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HUWAG BABUYIN ANG MAMAMAYAN!

During the past few weeks, a group identified with a faction of an organization of hog raisers, and a cooperative in Batangas has been trying to destabilize the government by giving false information to the public and spreading wild rumors on the state of the agriculture sector.

They have willfully and deliberately twisted facts and figures which are readily available from the Department of Agriculture. They are also sowing intrigue on the belief that Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, Jr. will cave in to their impossible demands.

This noisy group represents a small minority of hog farmers but has threatened protest actions to pressure the government into banning the importation of meat products.

Our members import meat raw materials because local supply is not available in sufficient quantity and acceptable quality. This group wants us to close our plants so that there will be a shortage of processed food products which are cheap sources of proteins and vitamins for the majority of our people.

Meat imports, especially those used in the production of corned beef, hotdogs, luncheon meats, hams, bacons and the like, have been blamed for their losses.

We wish to stress however, that they only have themselves to blame for their misfortunes, real or imagined. They should point their fingers to themselves.

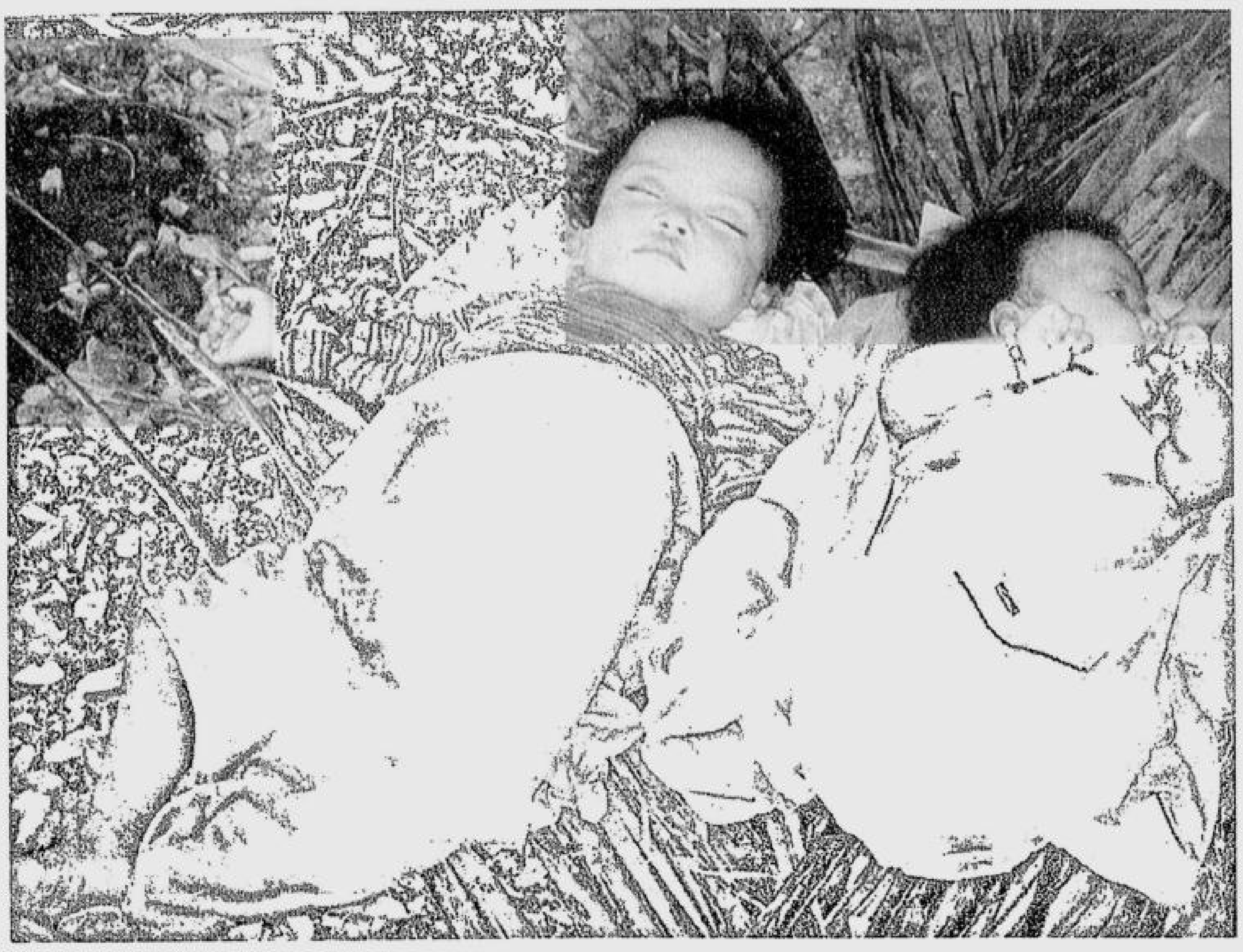
If they are not competitive because they are inefficient, it is not the fault of processors or consumers. In the case of the cooperative, if their production costs are too high, perhaps its members should investigate their officers and find out why.

On smuggling, we wish to state that this is a law enforcement issue which can easily be addressed by the Department of Finance. None of our members is involved in any smuggling activity.

In general, hog farmers are presently enjoying improved farmgate prices at a minimum of P62 per kilo. Despite the higher prices, consumers are not complaining. If the noisy group cannot sell at prevailing high prices, there must be a reason why customers are not buying their hogs.

PAMPI

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEAT PROCESSORS, INC.
(PAMPI)



WAR VICTIMS

MADONNA VIROLA

Two babies rest on a bed of leaves in an evacuation site in Dasmarinas, Cavite, victims of a stepped up offensive against communist rebels in Oriental Mindoro. More evacuees are expected to turn up as the Army announced it would recruit more soldiers to wage war on the guerrillas.

Subic execs give Bataan fishermen funds to help end dynamite fishing

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority have given a group of fishermen in Morong, Bataan, financial assistance to set up a Japanese fish trap in the town's waters and reduce illegal fishing there.

SBMA chair Felicito Payumo said the assistance, worth P255,000, will be used to build a *lambaklad*, an ecologically safe fish trap patterned after a large fish trap used by the Japanese called otoshi-ami. The fish trap will be placed in the waters off Barangay Mabayo in Morong.

The money was part of the P500,000-aid that the SBMA gave to Mabayo fishermen.

Payumo said the fishing method would minimize illegal fishing and encourage fishermen to protect and preserve the coral reefs and help eco-tourism in the area.

The *lambaklad* will cover 10,250 square meters and will be set up in coastal waters that run 30 meters deep. It has a passageway set across the path of migratory fish.

The *lambaklad* traps these fishes in a bunt (the baggy part of a fishing net). Species usually caught by the net include yellow fin tuna, barracuda, marlin, mackerel and other large fish from the South China Sea that pass through the waters of Mabayo.

The village was chosen as project site after a technical survey was conducted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

The *lambaklad* method has already been introduced and implemented in the fishing village of Sabang also in Morong.

A group of local fishermen who admitted practicing dynamite fishing in the past thanked the SBMA and the Bataan provincial government for the financial help and promised that they would not practice illegal fishing methods.

"We will vigorously protect the waters of Bataan and Subic to ensure that no one will practice dynamite fishing anymore," said Avelino Doloritos, president of Magic 25.

The SBMA and officials of the fishermen association in Morong signed a memorandum of agreement on the assistance before former Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman.

Under the agreement, the BFAR would help train the fishermen of Mabayo in setting up the *lambaklad* nets. The SBMA, through its ecology department, would pool a P500,000 fund to help the BFAR in monitoring the project.

DOT says US warning on travel to RP won't dampen Dinagyang

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Department of Tourism yesterday ruled out any possible negative effects of the recent United States travel advisory on this city's hosting of the Dinagyang Festival, its biggest feast, on Jan. 25 and 26.

"We feel that Western Visayas has nothing to worry about it. People who come here to enjoy Dinagyang are more of the seasoned travelers' type. They don't care about travel advisories and are not normally scared," DOT regional director Edwin Trompeta told the INQUIRER.

Trompeta said that almost 90 percent of those who celebrate the Dinagyang revelry in Iloilo City are locals and Filipinos who are based in foreign countries and are returning to this city for the celebrations.

Trompeta said this was not the first time for the United States and other countries to issue travel advisories cautioning their residents against visiting the Philippines, particularly areas in Mindanao, due to terrorist threats.

"Last year, despite the many travel advisories issued not only by the United States, our records show an increase in tourist arrivals by almost 9.5 percent over 2001's," Trompeta said.

In the case of the world-renowned Boracay Island, tourist arrivals even sprung by 17 percent over what was recorded in 2001. The increase was at five to six percent for the whole country, Trompeta said.

The latest US travel advisory warned Americans not to be in crowded places like bars, nightclubs and restaurant areas which are potential targets of terrorist attacks. Among others, it cited in the advisory the Oct. 12 terrorist attack in the world-famous Bali Island in Indonesia where almost 200 people were killed.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas said the city is not affected by the travel advisory. In fact, he noted that the US Embassy in the Philippines would even be sending a representative to the Dinagyang Festival.

The mayor revealed that as of last week, there were already a total of nine ambassadors who confirmed their attendance in the festival. They are ambassadors from Belgium, Canada, Cambodia, Taiwan, Laos, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Thailand and Norway.

The police regional office 6 has assured the security of visitors who are attending the festival. Hundreds of policemen would be deployed to the various performance areas and strategic locations all over the city.

The Dinagyang Festival is celebrated in the fourth week of January to commemorate the feast of the Child Jesus. It is similar to the pioneering Ati-Atihan Festival in Kalibo, Aklan and the Sinulog Festival in Cebu, which are held every third week of January and culminated yesterday.

AGRARIAN REFORM AREAS

$66.7-M solar power project planned in South

A SOLAR power project that costs at least $66.7 million will soon light up far-flung communities of agrarian reform beneficiaries.

The project, started under the term of former Agrarian Reform now Press Secretary Hernani Braganza, would install solar panels in selected agrarian reform communities to light up schools, barangay halls and day-care centers, and to operate incubators and hatcheries for agri-business activities, and water pumps for irrigation.

In a statement, the Department of Agrarian Reform said the solar photovoltaic-powered system does not need the installation of transmission lines.

The former agrarian reform chief and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. had entered into a memorandum of agreement that paved the way for the launching of the electrification project dubbed "Solar Power Technology Support (SPOTS)."

Braganza said the electrification project is very sustainable since it does not need fuel to generate electricity.

He said the project will not only help speed up the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), but will also bring comfort to 80 agrarian reform communities, 50 percent of which are in Mindanao.

SPOTS, which is under the auspices of the Spanish government, is an integrated social development project aimed at alleviating poverty through the application of solar photo-voltaic system.

The project is also centered on increased agricultural productivity, agri-business development and community development in ARCs.

"Farmers in far-flung areas placed under CARP will no longer be limited to listening to battery-powered radios and using gas lamps once the project is finished," said the DAR statement.

"The potential for solar power in the Philippines is so large," it added.

The statement said the project will be carried out in two phases. The first phase will be implemented in 40 ARCs in Mindanao and the mountainous Caraga region, while the second phase will be carried out across the nation.

In a statement, the DAR said the solar power project would help finish CARP, a program that is central to President Macapagal's vision of a strong republic.

Strike continues at firm's Cebu port

CEBU CITY—The union of Naga Philippines Arrastre and Stevedoring Services Inc. (Naphil) have intensified their mass action against the Apo Cement Corp. (Apocemco) in Naga town, Cebu.

Workers belonging to Naphil-Independent Union have been staging two separate moving pickets since Wednesday. One was being held in front of the gate of Apocemco compound in Naga, 21.6 kilometers south of this city.

Another moving picket was being conducted at the Apocemco-owned port, about 15 meters away from the compound.

Jojo Cana, union representative, told the INQUIRER that they would continue with their 24-hour picket until the government stepped into the labor dispute.

The workers extended the length of their picket after the union and management reached a deadlock.

The strike started on Dec. 3 to protest against the Apocemco's cancellation of its contract with Naphil, which affected 420 workers.

On Nov. 11, the Apocemco formally informed Naphil that starting Dec. 11, the management would no longer tap its arrastre services.

Six days later, the union filed a notice of strike against Naphil and the Apocemco before the National Conciliation and Mediation Board over nonpayment of tariff rate, union busting and termination of arrastre services.

The union rejected the offer of the management, through their lawyer Gina Eala. The offer was for the to be absorbed by Millennium Engineering General Services, which would take over Naphil. The workers said there was no assurance of security of tenure.

Aside from the strike, the union also asked the House of Representatives to investigate the alleged involvement of policemen and hired goons during the illegal and violent dispersal of their picket early this month.

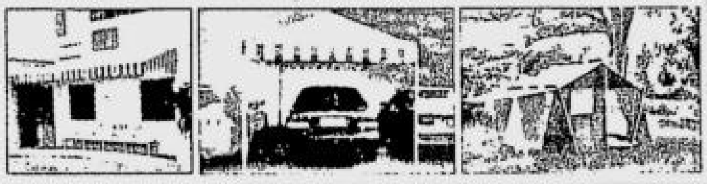
More than 100 workers of Naphil trooped to the Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas to file cases for grave abuse of authority, serious misconduct, grave threats, grave coercion and unlawful arrest against some top officials of the Philippine National Police.

Among those charged were Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, police regional director of Central Visayas; Senior Supt. Maximo Calimlim, Cebu police director; Chief Insp. Teofilo Siclot, Cebu police chief for operations and several policemen belonging to the Maritime Police, Regional Mobile Group and Naga police.

Attached with the complaint were the affidavits of 10 workers who said they were harassed and intimidated by the alleged hired goons and policemen.

Garcia and other respondents denied the allegations, saying the presence of the policemen in Naga was meant to secure peace and order.

About a hundred policemen, armed security guards and scabs dispersed the picket on Jan. 8, said Cana. *Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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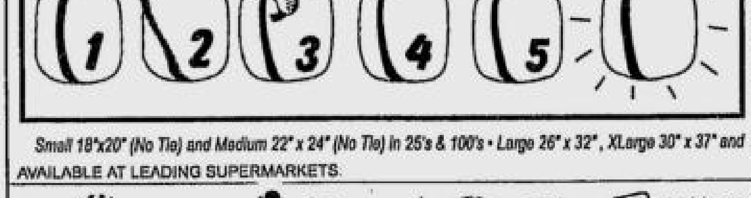

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Artist crafts Edsa II chess game

From page A1

their respective administrations.

It"s like watching history unfold before your eyes, says Pinder.

He said it was last year, after the celebration of the first anniversary of Edsa II, that one of his Metro Manila-based clients, a politician whom he did not want to name, asked him to make a chess set featuring the country's political figures.

Pinder thought about the idea and reflected on the country's politics. He said he decided to do the pieces because the country's political scene in the last quarter of 2000, or several months before Estrada's ouster, turned into a chess match when former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson accused Estrada of accepting kickbacks from *jueteng* operations and the tobacco excise tax.

The chess set, Pinder said, will give Filipinos "a slice of Philippine history."

Familiar characters

He said he chose 32 familiar characters, the people and symbols that played a significant role in Edsa II, as the pieces for his "Philippines 2000, The Chess Game."

For obvious reasons, Pinder chose Ms Macapagal and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo as the queen and king of the white pieces. Estrada and his wife Sen. Luisa Ejercito are the royal couple of the black pieces (but the pieces are actually red).

A figure of the smiling Ms Macapagal is dressed in a terno and is standing on an inverted *batya* (laundry basin), a reference to the "Gloria Labandera" jeers that she got from Estrada's supporters. The First Gentleman's figure is clad in *barong Tagalog.*

Estrada's figure, also clad in *barong Tagalog* and standing on a wad of peso bills, shows the familiar Erap pompadour and the wristband. The figure's left hand is holding a bottle of liquor. Ejercito's figure carries a *bayong* with her left hand and a handbag with the right hand.

The figures are all wearing crowns.

Pinder chose Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as the bishops in the white pieces.

But Pinder admitted that he encountered difficulty when he was deciding on who to represent as Estrada's bishops.

He first thought of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde and Iglesia ni Cristo executive minister Eraño Manalo as Estrada's bishops, but said he could not find any of their photographs to model the figures.

PINDER: INQUIRER influenced his choice of materials for characters.

"It was then that I had a brain wave. (Sen. Edgardo) Angara and (Rep. Manuel) Zamora, the A to Z of straight-thinking people who were both executive secretaries of Erap. Although things were going crooked in the Erap administration, both Angara and Zamora kept going straight," Pinder said.

Thus the black bishops, Angara and Zamora, were born.

Knights replaced

Pinder replaced the knights (horses) of the white pieces with two carabaos. Pinder said the INQUIRER, where he got most of his materials (photographs, news clips) when he was researching the project, influenced him in making the choice.

For the black pieces, Pinder used two jeepneys. He said he got the idea from the "Jeep ni Erap" radio and television program "which was all talk, full of bananas and ended up in the garbage dump."

Pinder used the image of a jeepney atop a garbage dump to symbolize Estrada's administration.

For the rooks (towers), Pinder chose a *bahay kubo* (nipa hut) for the white pieces and a tall building representing the Philippine Stock Exchange for black.

"What is tall, towering and related to Estrada? Some glass tower of course. But which one? The stock exchange building, isn't it obvious?" he said, referring to the BW Resources insider trading scandal that rocked Estrada's administration.

Many pawns

For the pawns, Pinder's list kept changing.

He had to select the senators who voted for or against the opening of the controversial second envelope during Estrada's impeachment trial. He also included personalities that figured in the news at that time.

For the white pieces, the pawns are Singson, former President Fidel V. Ramos, Council on Philippine Affairs' Pastor "Boy" Saycon, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., former Education Secretary Raul Roco, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo.

The black pawns are Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Estrada's former top police chief; Estrada's friend Dante Tan of BW Resources; former Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Francisco Tatad and Miriam Defensor-Santiago; Senators Robert Jaworski and Tessie Aquino-Oreta; and Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

Pinder said old copies of the INQUIRER and the book "People Power, Lessons and History" published by ABS-CBN Publishing Co. helped in his research.

He said politicians, some of them featured in his work, had called him and placed orders for the chess set. Pinder, however, declined to reveal who these politicians were and how much his chess set costs.

He said he is making a limited edition of 100 sets for interested collectors in his working area in Barangay Asin here. As a bonus, Pinder said he would give away a booklet, a spoof of People Power, for every set sold.

Pinder said each character took time to create. He had to ask for help from his twin daughters, Azra and Samantha, and a friend named Ambu to attend to the details of each face.

Pinder admitted having a hard time molding Defensor-Santiago's face "because it was hard to capture her character."

"It (Edsa II) was democracy unfolding," he said. "Although in politics people change sides or create their own sides, 'Philippines 2000, The Chess Game' is history as what really happened," he said.

Pinder, 50, was born and raised in Northern Ireland but settled in the country in 1975. He is an avid newspaper reader and enjoys reading Philippine history books during his spare time.

Don't lose hope, Edsa II forces told

From page A1

QUIRER in a telephone interview. "It would be better if members of the opposition would also attend."

Soliman said the Edsa People Power Commission (EPPC), which is in charge of annual Edsa celebrations, had sent invitations to Congress with the hope that members of both chambers, including those from the opposition, would accept them.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who had occasionally clashed with the President over key economic and foreign policy issues, is expected to show up, the Cabinet member said.

Members of Mike Velarde's El Shaddai group are also likely to participate with the attendance of Bishop Teodoro Bacani, the religious movement's spiritual adviser, she added.

Soliman said today's "short and simple" celebration will start with a Mass at the historic Edsa Shrine on Ortigas Avenue at 12:15 p.m., after which Ms Macapagal will deliver a brief speech. Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin will officiate at the Mass.

The EPPC will later host a "humble" lunch in the same area of the shrine, which was used as headquarters by Edsa II forces in the crucial moments before Estrada finally agreed to step down in 2001.

Whose shrine?

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño questioned the Catholic Church's claim of authority over the shrine.

"It is the height of hypocrisy for anyone to claim that politics has no place in the Edsa Shrine. In fact, the Edsa Shrine is built on the people's political struggle, just as it is built on the people's faith in the Almighty," Casiño said.

"We may have varying opinions of the present administration. But our particular stand on this matter should not prevent us from going to the Shrine to commemorate that which we both cherish—People Power and the continuing struggle for social transformation," he said.

He said a "March and Rally for Unity and Genuine Change" would push through, and would be led by Bayan and its allied organizations, the party-list group Bayan Muna and the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa).

"All patriotic Filipinos of all ages and classes, especially those who feel betrayed and frustrated under the (Macapagal) Arroyo administration, are invited to join this meaningful commemoration. Let us again come together for unity and genuine change," PlunderWatch's Dizon maintained.

Protest actions will also be held simultaneously in the cities of Baguio, Angeles, Naga, Legazpi, Tacloban, Kalibo, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Bacolod, Cebu, Tagbilaran, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos and Davao. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A14) With a report from Gerald Lacuarta*

People more ...

From page A1

presidency the next day.

As we commemorate today the shift of power at Edsa, Filipinos face a more certain landmark of political change in 2004 than they had on the eve of Edsa II. Another withdrawal last Dec. 30 ensured that certainty—the withdrawal of President Macapagal from the presidential electoral arena.

Now, Filipinos are certain that they will have a new elected leadership cut off from the legacy of the deadly duel between the two principal protagonists for power between 1998 and 2004. The exit (for now) of Ms Macapagal has redrawn the political map and opened the doors for the entry of new men and women into the presidential arena.

The new landscape is a positive political development, as it presents Filipinos the certainty of a new political leadership, freed from the trauma of the Estrada-Macapagal rivalry and from the questions of constitutional legitimacy that hounded the Macapagal administration.

Too early to tell

At this stage, 17 months before May 2004, it is foolhardy to talk about who will be the serious candidates in the elections for at least two reasons.

First, the political situation is very unpredictable, volatile and fluid. Anyone who draws up names of presidential possibilities is either foolish or naive and will likely be proved wrong by events that are shaking the ground of political coalition formation.

Remember Jan. 20, 2001. Up until Clarissa Ocampo's testimony on Dec. 22, 2000, in the Estrada impeachment trial, nobody was certain about the outcome of the trial. In a few weeks, the nation was caught by surprise by the military defection.

Second, it is premature to predict who will be serious contenders for the presidency following the removal of Ms Macapagal from the center of the equation. New configurations will emerge. As a matter of policy and prudence, I refuse to be drawn into naming presidential possibilities until January 2004. I have too much respect for the unpredictability and volatility of Philippine politics.

The switch in power two years ago, followed by the Supreme Court's intervention, pulled us back from civil strife and put back on track a turbulent Philippine democracy that was dangerously sliding into mob rule.

By 2004, with a new leadership, we will no longer face the question of constitutional legitimacy, removing an issue that provoked a rebellion on May 1, 2001, by die-hard Estrada supporters who, up to now, have refused to recognize the constitutional legitimacy of the Macapagal administration. By withdrawing from the election, the President put the issue of legitimacy behind the nation, and removed it as a central element of conflict in the remaining months of her presidency.

New issues

Without the legitimacy issue blocking the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel, new issues have assumed a higher profile.

The first is: Will the President be allowed and given a chance to transform the remaining 17 months of her presidency into an episode of no politics and implementation of reforms? Many are skeptical about whether her withdrawal decision is for real. I am amazed at this widespread skepticism, bordering on cynicism. I have observed and have reported on six presidents, many of whom made vague statements about not seeking reelection. But I have not yet seen a more categorical public pronouncement of abandonment of presidential ambition by an incumbent than the Rizal Day speech of President Macapagal. If she went back on her word, the consequence would be calamitous. A reversal will demolish her election prospects completely.

Nothing short of withdrawal could have given her the tool to transform her presidency into something that can shake the country out of its lethargy and initiate focused political and economic reforms.

The second issue that was pushed to the foreground is constitutional change. Last week, the President clarified her position when she told Japanese journalists that she favored a constitutional convention rather than the convening of Congress into a constituent assembly. She made clear that the delegates to the convention may be elected in the 2004 elections. She said that "considering the divisiveness in our country, perhaps the constitutional convention will be the least divisive way of bringing about fundamental changes in the political system through the Constitution."

Collision course

This clarification has put her on a collision course with Speaker Jose de Venecia, who has galvanized the House of Representatives behind the proposal to convene a constituent assembly to draft a new Constitution in time for the 2004 elections. De Venecia is fast-tracking this change, alarmed by the paralyzing deadlocks and inflexibility of the presidential system, highlighted by the trans-sectoral and trans-governmental impasse during the constitutional crisis of the Estrada administration. De Venecia sees clearly that if the convention delegates were elected in 2004, their output would take effect in 2010 at the earliest, which is too late for him. The convention mode has gotten the support of the senators, including Senate President Franklin Drilon and opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara, and is therefore polarizing the nation.

Whether the nation will close ranks behind the crash reform program of Ms Macapagal and constitutional change are the two most important areas of uncertainty in the remaining months of her presidency. Constitutional change, however, need not tie her hands when she pushes her reform agenda. It can be debated. The debate should not divert the nation from mobilizing behind a package of reforms which this government is unfolding with urgency in the weeks to come. At least, we are certain that there will be political leadership change in 2004—and life after Gloria.

Anti-war message: No blood for oil

From page A1

against preparations for war in Iraq, voicing a cry—"No blood for oil"—heard in demonstrations around the world. *(See related stories in The World, Page A11.)*

"I'm totally against the war, the killing of innocent women and children," said Vietnam War veteran Jerome McRait, who journeyed 22 hours by bus from the midwestern state of Wisconsin. "It's sowing the seeds of a terrible harvest for our grandchildren."

In Britain, Washington's closest ally against Iraq, there were demonstrations in Scotland and London and Liverpool and myriad points between.

In central London's Trafalgar Square, former Labor MP Tony Benn told a crowd: "We're trying to prevent a war that will kill hundreds of thousands of people, many of them children.

At the Northwood military headquarters near London, two people dressed up as a pantomime horse with a mask of Bush on the head and Blair at the rear.

Put together, the British demonstrations drew fewer than 10,000 people, but Andrew Burgin, a protest coordinator, said the events were a preview of protests in the coming days. A vast rally is planned for London on Feb. 15.

Police in the Netherlands detained 90 activists who tried to enter Volkel Air Force Base, where Dutch and US forces are stationed, to conduct a "citizens' inspection of American nuclear arms."

In traditionally neutral Ireland, more than 2,000 people protested against a government decision allowing US aircraft to use southwest Shannon Airport en route to the Gulf.

"This war is a war for oil," said Marie-George Buffet, national secretary of the Communist Party, as she marched at the head of a Paris protest. "The way to fight Saddam Hussein is to let the United Nations inspectors do their job."

In all, 48 French cities and towns were due to hold marches. Protests were also planned in Belgium, Germany and Italy,

About 4,000 peaceful protesters turned out in Gothenburg, Sweden, police said. A slogan read: "Drop Bush, not bombs."

In Moscow, a few hundred people agitated outside the US Embassy.

Some 5,000 people marched through downtown Tokyo. Coffee shop owner Tomoharu Yamauchi said: "We have to stop [the United States] from killing people. The victims are always the weak."

Human chain

Sixty protesters in Hong Kong shouted, "War, no," and more than 400 New Zealanders demonstrated in Christchurch.

In Rawalpindi, Pakistan, a few thousand people, many of them schoolchildren, formed a human chain to condemn a possible attack on Iraq.

In the Middle East, protests sounded an ominous note. In the Syrian capital, Damascus, thousands marched with a message that was not all about peace. Many cried, "Our beloved Saddam, strike Tel Aviv." Thousands in Beirut carrying Palestinian and Iraqi flags chanted, "Sign your name on a suicide attack on US interests."

In central Cairo, about 1,000 demonstrators called on the Egyptian government to prevent US and British warships from using the Suez Canal en route to attacking Iraq.

Thousands of Canadian activists joined peace protests in Toronto, Montreal and Halifax, Nova Scotia, to oppose a possible war in Iraq and demand that the Canadian government not participate in a US-led strike.

In the United States, where the day's largest rallies took place, more than 100,000 people demanded the White House back down and give UN weapons inspectors a chance. *Reports from Reuters, AP and AFP*

Chinoy journalist eyes Guinness entry

From page A1

Sy Yinchow, 84, said the Guinness Book of World Records should be rewritten to acclaim him "the longest-serving, living editor in chief of a daily newspaper."

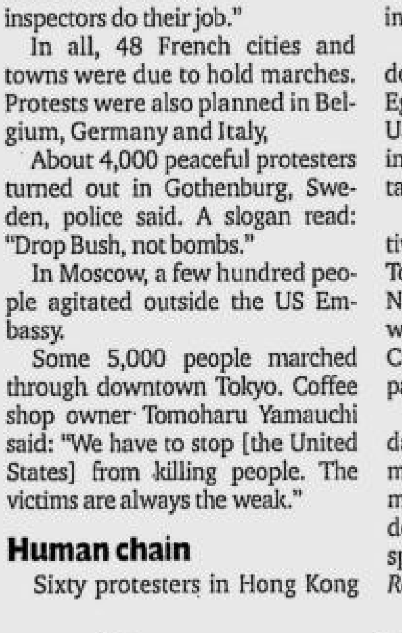
According to the Guinness Book, the late Sir Etienne Dupuch held the "world's longest editorship" spanning the 72 years he was editor in chief of the Nassau Daily Tribune in the Bahamas from 1919 to 1972 and a contributing editor until his death in 1991.

But Sy, who has been editor in chief for the past 58 years, claims that Sir Etienne had been the top editor for only 53 years.

"A contributing editor is not an editor in chief, he is only an editor in name," Sy told the Agence France Presse at his spartan residence in Manila's Chinatown, where he had lived since he emigrated to the Philippines from China's Fujian province at the tender age of 3.

Literary figure

Aside from his main job as a journalist, the octogenarian is a world-renowned literary figure and ex-statistician, which is probably why he is so particular about records.



SY: World's longest-serving newspaper editor in chief. AFP

Once a senior member of the World Association of Track and Field Statisticians, he was recruited by its former secretary general, N.D. McWhirter, who ironically happened to be the founding editor in chief of the Guinness Book of World Records.

Sy, a father of six grown-up children with successful careers, indicates that a place in the Guinness Book would be the ultimate reward for his colorful career.

"In 1999, I was already acclaimed the longest-serving newspaper editor in chief" by a Beijing state-run publication, said Sy, who has penned more than 20 books and translated more than 100 English and 72 French poems into Chinese.

He is currently the chief editor of the United Daily News, a leading Chinese-language daily in the Philippines, where he is regarded as the dean among Chinese media practitioners.

He is also an honorary president of the Hong Kong-based World Association of Chinese Writers and fellow of the International Writing Program of the US-based University of Iowa.

War coverage

Sy began his news editorship stint in 1945 when he steered the underground publication, the Manila New Day, during the brutal Japanese occupation.

"Those were dangerous times," he recalled. "Some people poked fun by asking me: you want your head chopped off by the Japanese?

"But this was no laughing matter because I later heard that the wife of the French military attaché in Manila at that time who had taught me French was executed by the Japanese military—she was accused of being part of an international spy network."

Sy said that although his "precise" translation of English poetry to Chinese had earned him many accolades, "my burning ambition is to be a noted translator of poetry from Chinese to English."

He has completed translating 120 Chinese poems for publication soon. "The Chinese-to-English translation matches word for word, rhyme for rhyme, and meter for meter, and this will be my greatest achievement," said Sy, an English department scholar at the University of the Philippines before World War II disrupted his studies.

"The English he uses continues the tradition of Wordsworth, Keats (top English poets of the 19th century)," P.C. Hsia, a professor at Columbia University and considered among the best Chinese writers in English, said in a report.

Looking very fit for his age, Sy, a former medium-distance runner who exercises regularly, lives with his 82-year-old wife, Jade Co, acclaimed a "model Filipino mother" by the Chinese community.

Despite their age, "we still have sex," chuckled Sy, but he did not insist that this be also entered in the record books. AFP

Professionals get one-month reprieve from VAT

From page A1

not inclined to approve another moratorium on the collection of the VAT because of the government's budget deficit problem.

"The VAT law covers about 3,000 goods and services and why should professionals, including the influential show biz bloc, be exempted?" said the official, who asked not to be named.

The source said the 10-percent VAT would be collected "even if this means that the President will be courting the ire of show business."

"She has nothing to be afraid of because the President is no longer running in 2004," the source said. "The President is out to implement reforms and will not back down on account of lobbies by influential sectors."

The source said the House bill, authored by administration ally Rep. Julio "Jules" Ledesma, husband of actress Assunta de Rossi, was in fact not included in the priority bills tackled in a recent meeting of the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council in Malacañang.

Asked what would happen after the reprieve ends on Feb. 29, Camacho said the tax would be collected. "Implementation of the law [will proceed] as intended," he said.

Presidential veto

Camacho said he would recommend a presidential veto if Congress, on account of the strong lobby by professionals, passed a new law again delaying the collection of the 10-percent VAT.

The country could exceed its budget deficit target for 2003 if it renewed a tax exemption for certain professionals and business activities, according to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Renewal of the exemption would cost the country P8.6 billion in uncollected revenue, Boncodin told reporters.

The government has been struggling to rein in its budget deficit, which is caused largely by tax revenue shortfalls due to inefficiency and corruption in the BIR.

"The estimated earnings from the 10-percent VAT on professionals has been included in our projected revenues for this year. The deferment would automatically mean an P8.6-billion revenue shortfall," Boncodin said.

That could see the budget deficit exceed P210 billion, against a full-year target of 4.7 percent of gross domestic product, or P202 billion.

Last year, the government outstripped its full-year deficit target three times. It is now hoping that the 2002 deficit will not exceed P223 billion.

"If they don't look for a substitute measure, our projected revenues will go down and this will affect our deficit," Boncodin said.

Commissioner Guillermo Parayno of the BIR appealed to show biz personalities opposing the 10-percent VAT to "have a change of heart."

"We are talking here of the long-term effects and benefits for the greater number of the people," Parayno said in a statement. "We appeal to their sense of patriotism since whatever income will be derived from it will be used to support the programs of the government."

In order to avoid confusion over the collection of the tax, Parayno said the BIR would provide resource speakers to answer queries from professionals.

In an interview over RMN radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the collection of the 10-percent VAT "has been postponed a number of times already."

"What we know is that it is important for all of us to make our own sacrifices for the nation," Bunye said. *With a report from Reuters*

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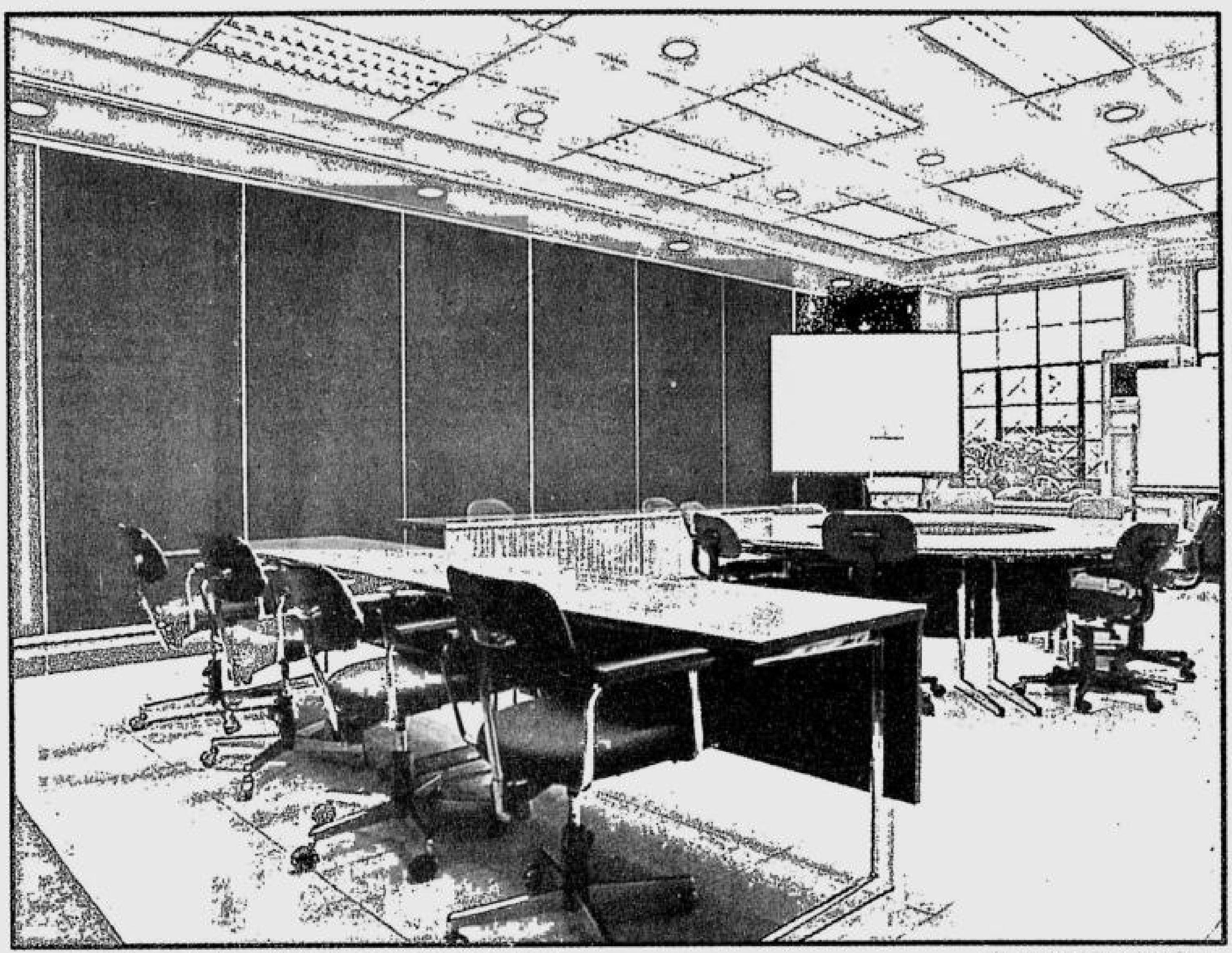

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variwa

Dolphy leads list . . .

From page A1

lion in taxes in 2001, according to sources.

The INQUIRER is publishing the list of top 20 show biz taxpayers to give the public a better grasp of the ongoing debate on whether professionals like actors and entertainers should start paying more taxes.

Entertainers complain they are being singled out by the government in its effort to raise revenue collection after the Bureau of Internal Revenue issued a regulation early this month requiring professionals to start paying the 10-percent value-added tax after a five-year exemption finally lapsed last month.

Aside from adding P8.6 billion to state coffers yearly, the 10-percent VAT on professionals would increase the government's monitoring and tax audit. Tax cheats among professionals would have a smaller chance of getting away with their bad habits.

Among the personalities vocally opposing the VAT are Richard Gomez, Dina Bonnevie, Ai-ai de las Alas and Rufa Mae Quinto. All are not on the list of top 20 show biz taxpayers.

Cesar Montano, Cesar Manhilot in real life, was the fourth biggest taxpayer among entertainers in 2001, up from 18th place the previous year.

Robin Padilla, the "Bad Boy" of Philippine movies, dropped to sixth spot from fourth the previous year.

Zsa Zsa Padilla ranked seventh in 2001 from sixth, while Ogie Alcasid improved his standing to No. 8 from No. 11.

Rudy Fernandez and Lorna Tolentino, in a joint filing, took the ninth place, up one slot, followed by comedian and director Edgar Mortiz.

Randy Santiago, Paolo Bediones and Pops Fernandez occupied slots 11th to 13th, jumping several notches from 24th, 22nd and 19th places, respectively.

MTV video jock Donita Rose took the 14th place, dropping from No. 8. She was followed by Jolina Magdangal, who dropped from seventh.

Ariel Rivera placed 16th from 17th in 2000, followed by Vina Morales, who improved her rank in 2001 from 22nd the previous year.

John Estrada was No. 18, up from No. 33 and ahead of megastar Sharon Cuneta, who endorses brands like McDonald's and Alaska Milk.

German Moreno, who paid more than P200,000 in taxes, was No. 20, up from No. 37.

Aga, Vilma not on list

Conspicuously not on the list were big product endorsers Aga Muhlach and his wife Charlene Gonzales, who did commercials for Jollibee, Argentina Corned Beef and Touch Mobile.

Not on the list, either, was Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, wife of Sen. Ralph Recto, who chairs the Senate ways and means committee.

Santos did not make it to the list because she focused on public service and did very few movies and television shows, according to a government source.

Some entertainers, especially those with other businesses, may have filed their taxes through a corporation, making it harder to get information on their tax payments, according to the source.

Most, however, have managed to evade taxes given the flexible nature of the tax system for professionals. Unlike professionals, regular wage earners cannot evade taxes as their obligations are withheld by the employer.

Government officials noted that the flexibility of the tax system for professionals was the reason the BIR doubled the withholding tax of entertainers and athletes in 2001 to 20 percent, after the bureau noticed that many of them had been filing their withholding tax as final tax.

The government depends on professionals earning talent or consultancy fees to declare their earnings, hoping they would do so honestly.

The only income the government can easily verify is that covered by a withholding tax because a third party like Smart Telecommunications declares as expenditures the payment for Nievera's product endorsements.

But earnings not covered by receipts, like a performance at a fiesta where even a two-bit singer could earn more than P50,000 for a few songs, are beyond the BIR's reach.

Based on new data from the Department of Finance, professionals, who earned purely talent and consultancy fees, remitted only P620 million to the government in 2001 and not P15 billion as earlier reported.

The P620 million was but a fraction of the combined P10.75 billion in taxes paid by professionals, self-employed and mixed-income earners. Some P3.18 billion came from capital gains tax.

In 2001, a total of P80.24 billion in total taxes was paid by individuals, whether wage earners or business executives. Of this amount, P66.3 billion was paid by salaried workers.

Of the 2,605,505 individual taxpayers in 2001, 525,760 are classified as professionals and self-employed while the rest were compensation earners. In 2000, a total of 28,915 were classified as professionals while the rest were self-employed.

Compensation earners accounted for 38 percent of individual incomes but contributed 83 percent of tax collection, according to the Family Income and Expenditure Survey of the National Statistics Office in 1997.

Business and professionals, on the other hand, took home 62 percent of individual incomes but accounted for only 13 percent of the taxes collected from individuals.

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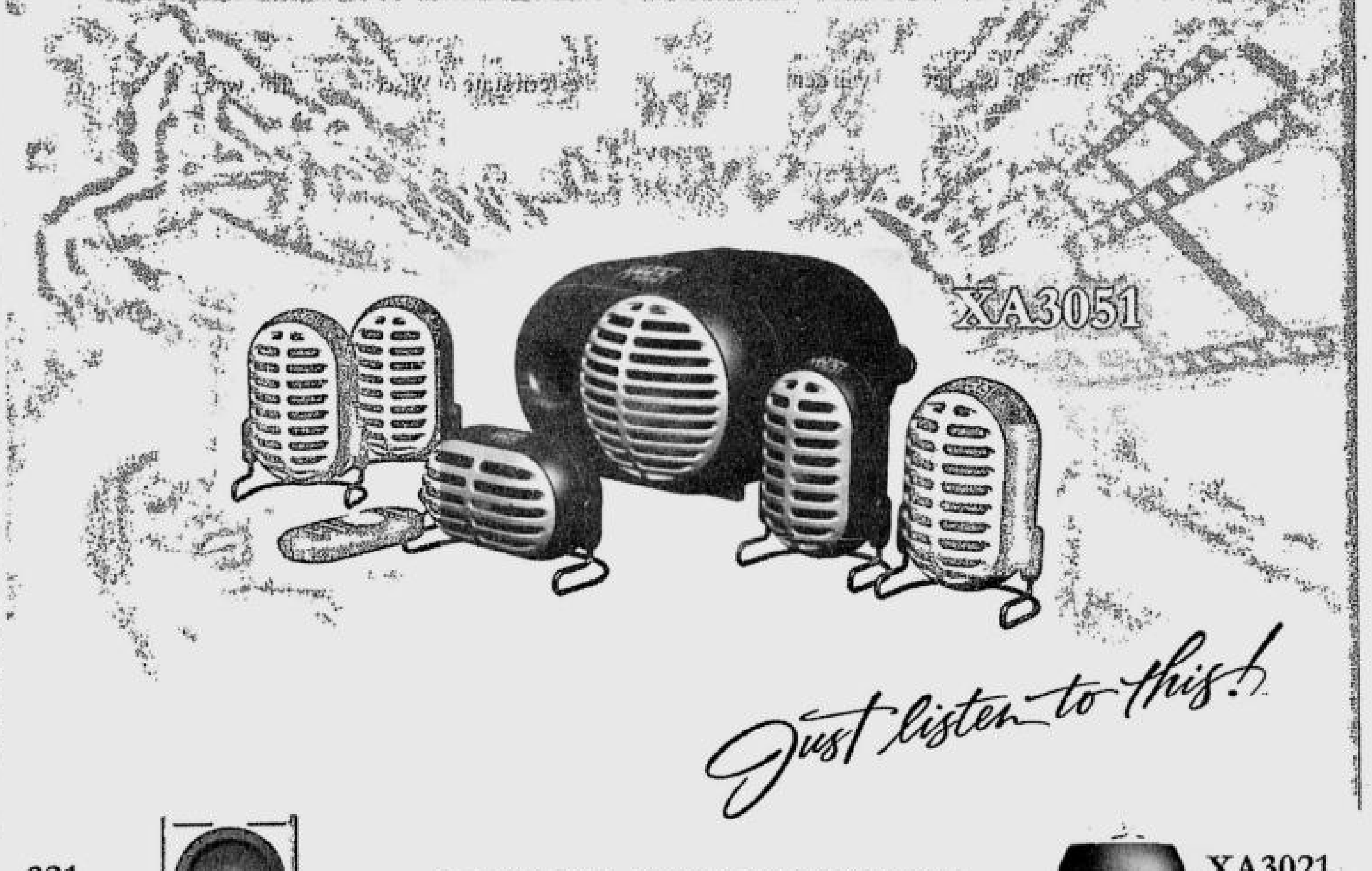

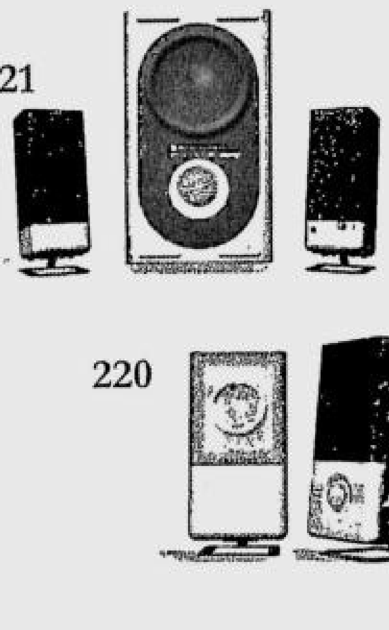

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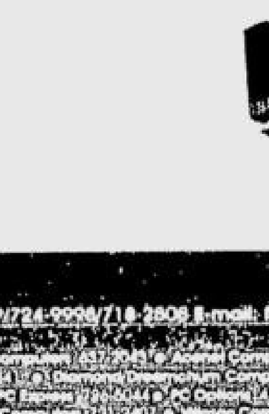

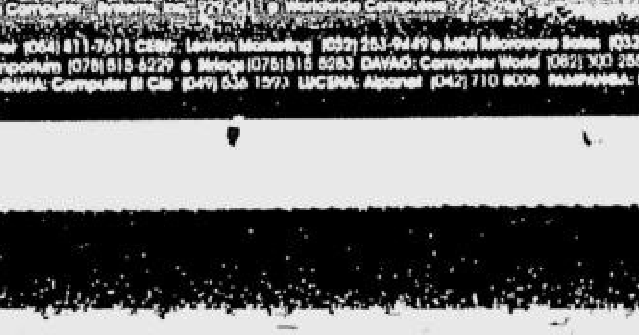

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AUSTRALIAN OPEN THRILLER

Justine outlasts Lindsay in 3 hours

HENIN-HARDENNE celebrates her 7-5, 5-7, 9-7 victory over Davenport.

AFP

Venus, Andre also gain quarterfinals

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia—Venus Williams had Nicole Pratt sprawling and sighing.

Justine Henin-Hardenne was in pain and fearing she was finished.

Both advanced to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open on Sunday as Henin-Hardenne came back from 1-4 and a late painful cramp to beat Lindsay Davenport 7-5, 5-7, 9-7 in 3 hours, 13 minutes.

Williams stayed on course for a fourth straight Grand Slam final against sister Serena by beating Pratt 6-3, 6-2 in 1:17.

Venus had to save 11 break points and committed 33 errors, but she offset them with 35 winners.

Meanwhile, three-time men's champion Andre Agassi had an easy passage into the quarterfinals when Argentina's Guillermo Coria withdrew with a foot injury after Agassi pulled ahead 6-1, 3-1.

Henin-Hardenne, the fifth seed, went all out to win her battle with the American Davenport, who was seeded ninth.

"I thought I was going to die but I played it with my heart and just went for it," said Henin-Hardenne, the 2001 Wimbledon runner-up.

In the next-to-last game, "I was cramping and then I thought the match was over for me."

DAVENPORT

Henin-Hardenne took advantage of her own speed and her opponent's errors to take the first set and go up 4-1 in the second.

But Davenport won 10 of the next 12 games, moving to a 4-1 lead in the final set. After Henin-Hardenne broke serve three times for 5-all–rebounding from 40-15 in the eighth game–Davenport saved a match point in the 14th and reached 7-all.

Then, serving at 0-15, Henin-Hardenne fell to the court, holding her left leg. After treatment, she came back and served an ace, held for 8-7 and then broke Davenport again, winning with an inside-out forehand serve return.

It was her first victory in six meetings with Davenport, a former No. 1 who has won three majors, including the 2000 Australian Open.

Davenport said it probably was the longest, most dramatic match she had played, and was decided by just a few points.

"I can't kick myself too much. ... If someone can come up with a lot of winners and a lot of great shots, then that's good," she said.

She said Henin-Hardenne appeared to loosen up after her cramp, and still was able to chase down shots.

"I played her a lot of times when she's been up and couldn't quite put it away," Davenport said. "Today she came up with some great shots at the end."

JUSTINE/ A21

Que finishes strong second

By Jong Arcano

AFTER quickly winning his first title as a pro in the local tour, Angelo Que got himself a ticket to play in a big-time league with a strong second place finish in the recent Final Stage of the Asian PGA Tour's Qualifying School at Palm Resort Golf and Country Club in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

In a showdown between the region's former amateur stars, the young Que lost by a mere stroke to Taiwan's Sung Mao-chang, almost becoming the first Filipino to top the Q-School that selected the 40 new cardholders of the Asian PGA Tour.

Que scored 65-68-74-69 for a 276 aggregate like American Jason Knutzon with Sung, who was a member of the Taiwanese team that won last year's gold medal in the Asian Games, firing back-to-back 65s in the last two rounds to emerge top of the class.

Though there was no substantial prize for his feat, Que got a big bonus which is a slot in next week's Caltex Masters presented by Carlsberg in Singapore, which is joint-sanctioned with the European Tour for being among the top three finishers.

"I am disappointed with yesterday's 74, when I putted really badly, but it feels really good to have won my card. I am looking forward to playing on the Asian PGA Tour this year and at the end of the season I'll try and qualify for Japan," said Que, who capped his amateur career with a third place finish in the world amateurs also in Malaysia.

Of the four Filipinos who joined the qualifying, only Que qualified. Carito Villaroman wound up 59th, Rodrigo Cuello placed 65th and Marlon Dizon 86th.

Que captured the Bacolod Open leg of the ongoing First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit in only his third tournament as a pro.

His swing coach Bong Lopez said that Angel is ready for the big league: "He has a lot of plans this year and with the amount of time he has been putting into practice, he will become the name to watch in the Asian Tour."

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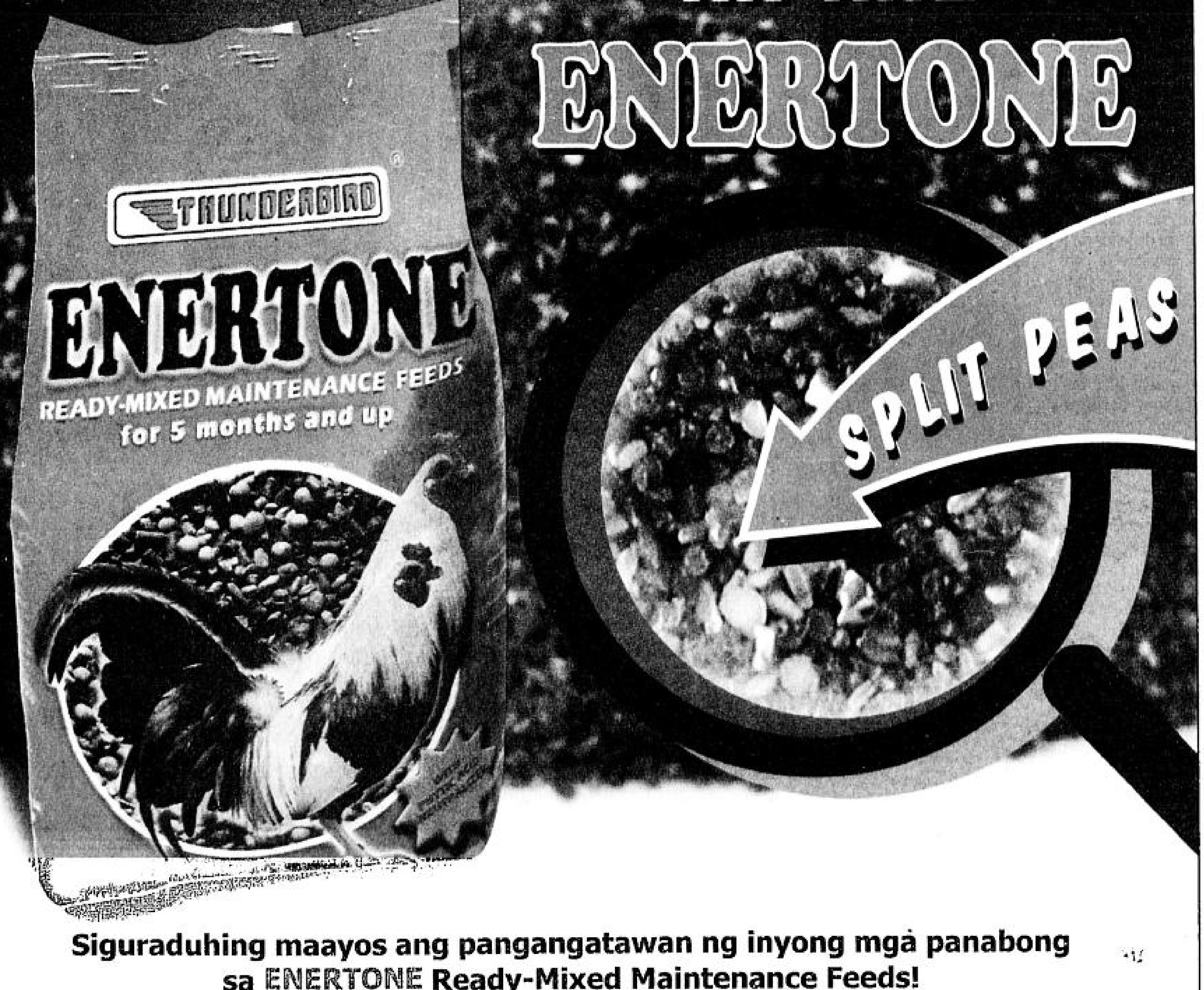

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BRAD Miller (top) and Reggie Miller watch the replay of teammate Jermaine O'Neal's last-second shot against the Detroit Pistons. The officials took 15 minutes after the final buzzer sounded to declare the Pacers the winner, 88-86.

AFP

San Mig offers PBL star ₱2.6-M deal for 2 years

By June Navarro

WHILE the rest of the rookies picked in the first round of the PBA annual draft last week are bound to enjoy their fat contracts, PBL star Marlon Legaspi would have to be satisfied with what San Miguel Beer has to offer.

The 6-foot-5 Legaspi, picked eighth overall by the Beermen, was offered a modest two-year contract worth only P2.6 million, a paltry sum compared to the deals struck by the rest of the first-rounders.

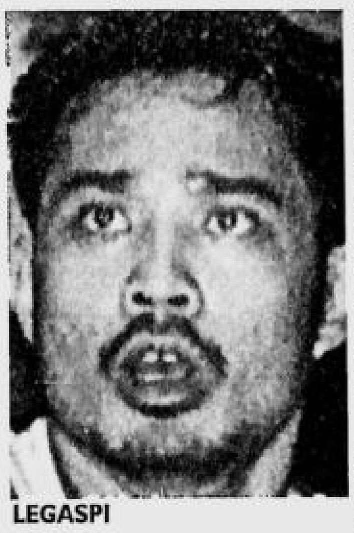
Running third in the MVP race in the ongoing PBL behind Welcoat's Romel Adducul and Eddie Laure, Legaspi didn't even hit half of what No. 10 pick Jimmy Alapag will get from Talk N' Text.

The 5-foot-8 Alapag has signed a three-year, P7.8-million pact with the Phone Pals, who also gave Fil-American Harvey Carey, chosen fourth overall, the same length of service worth P8.3 million.

But the most depressing thought of all was the more lucrative package secured by a handful of second-round picks.

Second-round rookies Sunday Salvacion (Ginebra), John Ferriols (FedEx), Adonis Sta. Maria (Shell) and Eugene Tejada (Alaska) stand to receive wages more than twice of what Legaspi would get.

"I believe they know my capability. I hope I'll get a contract commensurate to my ability," said Legaspi, a two-time MVP in the Visayas leg of the PBL.



LEGASPI

Legaspi was reportedly offered P100,000 a month on his first year and P120,000 on the final year.

Arnold Calo, Legaspi's teammate at Blu Detergent and the 18th overall pick, was also reportedly offered a measly sum by the Beermen. Observers believe the P30,000 a month offer to Calo is unequal to his skill.

San Miguel Beer has cited the prevailing economic crisis in the country and the diminishing salary cap as the chief culprits for the measly offers.

Legaspi and Calo spearheaded the MLQU Stallions to five championships in the Colleges and Universities Sports Association. Legaspi won the PBL rookie of the year award in 2000 while Calo was last year's most improved player.

They both promised to donate a portion of their salaries to Blu's utility boys and the coaches who helped them fulfill their dreams.

O'Neal's jumper lifts Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS—Jermaine O'Neal hit the winning jumper as time expired but had to wait 15 minutes while the play was reviewed and finally allowed to stand to earn the Indiana Pacers an 88-86 win over the Detroit Pistons in the NBA Saturday.

The instant replay rule is new to the NBA this year and allows officials to look back at any play in the final few seconds of any quarter.

Officials Joe De Rosa, Jess Kersey and Courtney Kirkland reviewed the play, talked with both coaches and then met again before finally ruling the game was over.

O'Neal had 17 points while Reggie Miller had 21 as Indiana (29-11) opened a 2 1/2 game lead on Detroit (26-13) in the Central Division. Brad Miller collected 19 points and 15 rebounds while Ron Artest chipped in with 19 points. The Pacers won their 11th successive home game and are 18-1 at Conseco Fieldhouse this season.

In Washington, Allen Iverson scored 26 points as the Philadelphia 76ers downed the Wizards 88-80.

Eric Snow added 19 points for the 76ers, who have won only two of their last nine games. Keith Van Horn had 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Michael Jordan had 25 points, eight rebounds and seven assists to lead the Wizards, who were without Jerry Stackhouse for the third game in a row due to a groin injury.

COMPLETE RESULTS

New York 95, Atlanta 92; Philadelphia 88, Washington 80; Indiana 88, Detroit 86; Miami 102, Chicago 101 (2 OT); Boston 97, Milwaukee 95; Utah 95, Cleveland 78; LA Clippers 112, Sacramento 107; Minnesota 104, Portland 98.

Reuters

Motivation holds key in Challenge--Austria

By Dennis U. Eroa

MOTIVATION vs character.

Welcoat mentor Leo Austria said motivation holds the key in winning the PBL Challenge Cup title. Dazz coach Junel Baculi believes that the Sparklers will win because of character.

Austria remembered playing under Baculi during the 1996 PBL Reinforced Conference which the Lamoiyan franchise won over Tanduay.

"Coach Junel was very good in motivation. He treats everybody equal. No superstar treatment," Austria said.

While they have different coaching styles, Austria believes that Welcoat already possesses the character needed to win the big one.

"Welcoat already has the championship character. Now, it's about motivating the men to win," Austria said.

Baculi, who authored the Paintmasters' four PBL titles, said he still wants to see the mental toughness of the Sparklers to win the title.

"I refer to the killer's instinct of my players," said Baculi. While Welcoat steamrolled the opposition, Dazz struggled during the eliminations, needing a 62-49 victory over Welcoat to force a playoff against Blu.

The Baculi and Austria coaching rivalry spices up the best-of-five series between Dazz and Welcoat.

Austria gave Shark two titles at the expense of Welcoat.

"We're friends on and off the court. But we're also fierce rivals on court," noted Austria.

Welcoat and Dazz split their elimination games, but the Sparklers won their last outing in Lucena City, venue of Game One on Thursday.

Austria, however, is going to coach at familiar territory. The former PBA rookie of the year grew up in nearby Sariaya, Quezon, known for its sweet delicacies.

Expats dominate Eagle Ridge opener

EXPATS served notice of their firepower as Lim Min-kook, Kim Kyung-jung and Misako Ogihara topped their respective divisions in the January monthly tournament for members of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Lim, a 3-handicapper, mastered the tough conditions at the Faldo layout with the greens very sleek and the winds making club selection a big puzzle, scoring a 78 to beat Shinichi Ogihara by two strokes for the Class A crown.

Kim finished three strokes ahead of Fred Asunto in Class B with his 85 and Japanese Nobukazu Kotake claimed third place while another Japanese expat Misako Ogihara denied her local rivals the ladies plum.

Jose Marie Lim and Manuel Uy went home with the Class C and Class D titles, respectively.

Lim scored a 92 to pull off a four-stroke win over Jose Mendoza while Uy had the biggest margin of six among the winners with a 98 against the 104 of Reynaldo Villafuerte.

The return match of Imelda Agustin and Arlette Dizon was spoiled Ogihara who banked on a higher handicap to escape with a one-stroke win over Agustin.

The seniors monthly was just as closely fought with Rodolfo Villanueva emerging as the overall champion.

Age-group winners were Benjamin del Rosario in Group I for 55-59 years, Bernie Bernardo in Group II for 60-64 years and Manuel Tayas in Group III for players 65 and above.

Del Rosario beat the challenge of Roberto Sison and Charles Ronald Bettz, Bernardo was too classy for Carlos de Leon and Maxy Abad and Tayas escaped with a close win over Al Pedersen and Efren Villanueva.

The Eagle Ridge Seniors, celebrating their recent inclusion into the Senior Care program of the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines, Inc., will make their debut in the coming Philippine Airlines Interclub this March.

Tampa Bay-Philadelphia NFC title game up

PHILADELPHIA—Jon Gruden doesn't want to hear about the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' pathetic history in Philadelphia or their cold-weather failures.

"It's like it's 24-0 and we haven't even gotten off the plane yet," the Bucs' coach said as his team prepared for Sunday's NFC championship game.

That's no surprise considering what's happened to the Bucs at Veterans Stadium, where Tampa Bay and Philadelphia meet Sunday in the NFC title game, the final NFL game at the stadium.

Two years ago, Philadelphia won 21-3 in the wild-card round. Last year, it was 31-9 in Tony Dungy's last game as the team's coach.

Gruden did no better in his only foray here as coach of the Bucs: losing 20-10 on Oct. 20 in his return to the city where he was offensive coordinator from 1995-97.

Add that Tampa Bay had never won in temperatures under 40 degrees Fahrenheit (44 degrees Celsius) until beating the Bears 15-0 last month and you have what some believe is a severe problem — psychologically as much as physically — for the Bucs.

Oakland vs Tennessee

OAKLAND, California—Rarely hurt, always effective, Tim Brown is the consummate NFL professional.

He has been in the league for 15 years. He has been to the Pro Bowl nine times. He has 14,167 yards receiving, second-most in NFL history behind Jerry Rice. But he has never played in the Super Bowl.

His next, best and maybe last chance to make it comes Sunday, when the Oakland Raiders play in the AFC title game against the Tennessee Titans. *AP*

Justine outlasts Lindsay . . .

From page A20

The 26-year-old American, who missed most of last season after knee surgery, added: "I never thought that I would be more fresh after a three-hour match than my opponent."

"I tried up until the very end," she added. "I'm very proud of that."

Henin-Hardenne next plays Spain's Virginia Ruano Pascual, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over Czech player Denisa Chladkova.

Venus Williams now faces a quarterfinal against No. 7 Daniela Hantuchova, who extended her to three sets in the third round last year, and a possible semifinal against Henin-Hardenne.

Hantuchova, a 19-year-old from Slovakia, beat No. 12 Patty Schnyder 7-5, 6-3.

Serena, the world's top-ranked player and winner of the last three majors, plays her fourth-round match Monday against 18th-seeded Eleni Daniilidou of Greece. Serena missed last year's Australian with an ankle injury before beating Venus in the title matches at the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

Pratt, an Aussie ranked 54th, had the center court crowd behind her as she strained to reach every ball against Venus.

Venus later joined Serena in a third-round doubles match, and the top-ranked sisters defeated Martina Navratilova and Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-3.

Hantuchova, who reached her third consecutive Grand Slam event quarterfinal, went all out in her match, spraying 39 errors while hitting 27 winners. She was helped by 27 misses by Schnyder, who had won three of their five previous meetings.

Noting that she nearly beat Williams last year, Hantuchova said, "Maybe I needed more experience at the time and that's something I feel I have now. That's why I feel ready and very optimistic about this match."

On the men's side, No. 4 Juan Carlos Ferrero, the French Open runner-up, advanced with a 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 victory over 18-year-old Mario Ancic of Croatia.

Ferrero next meets Wayne Ferreira, playing in his 49th consecutive Grand Slam tournament, who beat Armenian Sargis Sargsian 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Agassi will play 2001 semifinalist Sebastien Grosjean, a 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 winner over Spain's Felix Mantilla. It was Mantilla's fourth consecutive five-set match of the tournament.

Coach threatens to punch McEnroe

MELBOURNE—An Australian coach has threatened to punch John McEnroe after the former world number one ridiculed his younger brother on national television.

Brent Larkham, the coach and older brother of Todd Larkham, challenged McEnroe to a fist fight after the American commentator told millions of Australian viewers that Todd's second round defeat by world number one Lleyton Hewitt was "pitiful".

McEnroe described the clash, which Hewitt won 6-1, 6-0, 6-1, as a hopeless mismatch not worthy of being played on the Melbourne Park center court.

"Todd didn't know anything about it but I went looking for McEnroe, found him and told him I thought it was uncalled for," Brent told the Sunday Herald Sun newspaper.

Todd, a qualifier ranked 235th in the world, said McEnroe's comments ruined what should have been one of the highlights of his career on the center court.

Reuters

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Baddeley seizes control in Hawaii; Els 2 shots off

HONOLULU—Aaron Baddeley took three years to reach the PGA Tour. He looked like he was in a hurry Saturday to win his first event at the Sony Open.

The 21-year-old Aussie quickly built a five-stroke lead over a collection of world-class players and finished with a 5-under 65 to keep his distance over Ernie Els.

Baddeley, who won back-to-back Australian Open titles as a teenager, kept his cool when his swing deserted him down the stretch, making tough par saves on the 15th and 16th holes as the Big Easy was making a run.

Baddeley was at 15-under 195 and was two strokes clear of Els, who had a 66.

"I'm just going to enjoy it," Baddeley said of his final-round pairing with Els. "Ernie is a laid-back fellow. Tomorrow is going to be a good day. All I can is worry about my golf ball. If I do that, I can win."

Robert Gamez, who hasn't won since his rookie season 12 years ago, had a 65 and joined Chris DiMarco (69) and Briny Baird (67) at 10-under 200.

Els is coming off an eight-stroke victory in the Mercedes Championships, where he set a PGA Tour record at 31-under par. He is trying to become the first player since Steve Jones in 1989 to win the first two tournaments of the year.

That might not faze Baddeley.

A winner three times in Australia, his victims include Sergio Garcia, Robert Allenby, Greg Norman and Colin Montgomerie.

He certainly didn't panic Saturday in more tough Kona winds at Waialae Country Club.

Tied with Retief Goosen to start the third round, Baddeley put eight strokes between him and the former U.S. Open champion on the front nine. Baddeley capped it off by holing a 45-foot eagle putt that curled in the back of the cup.

That gave him a five-stroke lead over the rest of the field, and he appeared to be poised for a runaway. *AP*

Nestlé BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2003

Kitefest Info Bits

The country's biggest and longest running kite flying festival, BEAR BRAND Kitefest actually started 13 years ago at the historic Rizal Park. This year, it will tour 10 key cities from Luzon to Mindanao.

Because of its nationwide exposure, the BEAR BRAND Kitefest has been enjoyed by families from the different regions all over the country. In fact, the biggest recorded participant turnout was outside Metro Manila, with over 1,000 kite entries at the BEAR BRAND Kitefest in Davao.

See you in Dumaguete at the Gov. Mariano Perdices Memorial Coliseum for the first leg of BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2003!

Luigi heads Alabang golf meet winners

LUIGI Tabuena tallied a net two-under-par 70 on a gross of even-par 72 then nipped Manuel Espaldon in the countback for the Class A plum in the recent Chairman's Cup golf tournament–a prelude to the much-awaited Mango Tee 2003–at the Alabang Country Club course.

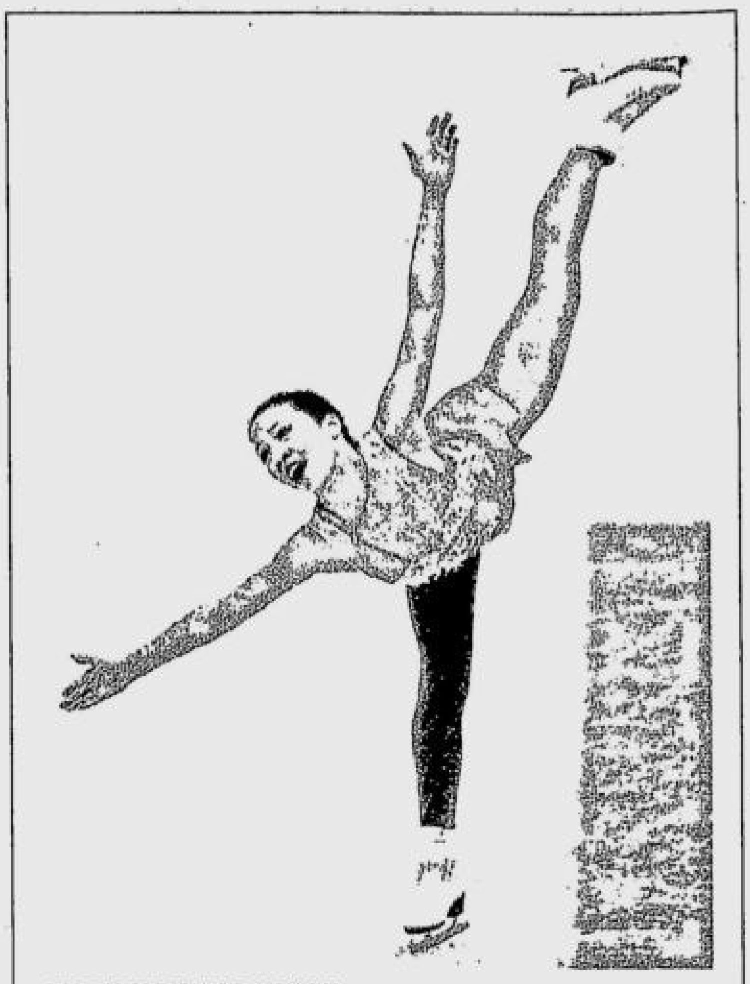
Max Paca, Lauro Abano, Leopoldo dela Cruz, Rolando Carlos and Dina Chuidian joined Tabuena, who banked on his three birdies against Espaldon's two, in the roster of winners as members of Alabang got a glimpse of the playing conditions for the 19th edition of the Mango Tee on Feb. 6-9.

Paca netted a 60 against the 63 of John Kenneth Ocampo in Class B, Abano edged Jesus Fargas by one after a 65 in Class C, Dela Cruz was another countback winner over Manuel Quijano in Class D. Carlos won the seniors plum over Henry Hagedorn and Dina Chuidian beat Coralyn del Rosario for the ladies division.

The 18-hole tourney was held in honor of Godofredo "Jun" Galindez Jr., chair of the ACCI board.

Meanwhile, the sponsorship roster for the Mango Tee was recently unveiled with Smart Communications, Mitsubishi Motors, Makati Skyline, TaylorMade adidas, Standard Chartered and Turf Co. as major backers.

Hole sponsors are Fedex, Nestle, Pepsi, Security Bank/Diners Club, Acro Industrial, Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., Cocolife/Direct Link, Directories Phils., Friend of Mango Tee, Gainers Marketing, GG&A Club Shares Inc., Golforce Inc., Green Cross Inc., Golfers Clubshares, Inc., Haji Andi Tabusalla, Hyundai Ortigas, Joseph Rice Mill, Maisog Engineering, Natropin Anti-Aging and Rejuvenation Program, Pilipinas Shell, Prudential Life Group, Supreme Construction, T&C Construction, The Bellevue Manila, True Value, YKK Zipper Inc. and Ciclo Mondo. Mitsubishi and Yamaha are providing the hole-in-one prizes.



MICHELLE, MA BELLE

American skating ace Michelle Kwan shows the form that enabled her to capture her seventh national title, and sixth in a row, at the US figure skating championships in Dallas Saturday. Kwan, 22, turned in a brilliant performance in the free skate to atone for her disappointment at the Olympics. She now goes after her fifth world title in Washington in March. AP

Dagupan East shines

THE ROTARY Club of Dagupan-East, riding the big games of Jesus Romero and Albert Balingit, upstaged the home teams in sweeping both the top team and individual awards in the 17th edition of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) golf tournament recently at the Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club courses in Baguio City.

Romero and Balingit both fired 84 points each for two days, carrying the scoring load for the Dagupan-East Rotarians who finished six points clear of Baguio North 2 with a 318 aggregate.

Joining Romero and Balingit in the big romp were Eric Acuna, Reuben Balinao and Francis Macalino. Romero took the overall individual title after beating Balingit in the countback.

Major sponsors for the event are Taylor Made, Casino Filipino/Pagcor, Smart Communications. Minor sponsors are Fedex, Zuellig Insurance, Zeta Mark/Calvin Klein, Ortigas&Co., Menzi, PLDT, Storck, General Nutrition Center, Lebuilder, Brewyard Café and RGFFP chair Melito Salazar.

Baguio North-2 settled for the Presidents division trophy with Baguio South (Founders), Baguio North-1 (Governors) and Bagumbayan 3 (Fellowship) clinching the other categories.

Balingit won a third Pewter trophy for his team as Flight C individual champion. The other winners were Bong Mandapat of Baguio South (low gross), Jiggy Garcia of Kamuning 1 (Flight B) and Benjie Favis of Baguio in the guest division.

RGFFP chair Melito Salazar said that with the Baguio tourney getting the usual enthusiastic response from Rotarians, they now hope to make the southern leg of the RGFFP series in Cagayan de Oro as big.

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SPORTSWATCH

Alinghi finishes off Oracle

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Oracle's last race of the America's Cup challenge final Sunday was over before it started, allowing Swiss boat Alinghi to advance to the Cup final against Team New Zealand. Hit with a pre-start penalty when it failed to give way to Alinghi, the San Francisco-based Oracle was forced to carry the penalty for the entire race. Although Alinghi crossed the line in just under 10 seconds ahead of Oracle, the victory margin was officially 2 minutes, 34 seconds when Oracle had to do a penalty turn after it crossed the finish line. The win gave Alinghi the best-of-nine series 5-1 on the Hauraki Gulf course.

'Macho' wins comeback fight

HOLLYWOOD, Florida—Hector "Macho" Camacho returned from an 18-month absence to stop Ecuador's Otilio Villareal after the eighth round of a super middleweight bout Saturday night. Camacho, a 40-year-old former three-time world champion from Puerto Rico, outpunched and wore down Villareal, who did not come out for the ninth round of the scheduled 10-round fight. Camacho improved to 76-4-2 with his 37th knockout. The former junior lightweight and junior welterweight champion had not fought since outpointing Roberto Duran in July 2001. *AP*

Tony Bernas Cup tomorrow

GOLF enthusiasts are invited to join the Tony Bernas Cup golf tournament tomorrow (Jan. 21) at the Alabang Country Club starting at 7:30 a.m. Antonio Bernas, who is being honored on the occasion of his 69th birth anniversary, is the chair emeritus of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA). Sponsors of the event include DM Consunji Inc. Apo Vynil Tiles, RI Chemicals, Mega Plywood, Sieway Plywood and Uniplywood. Registration fee of P2,500 includes green fees, lunch and raffle prizes. Awarding ceremonies will be at 2 p.m.

Thorpe turns back Hoogenband

PARIS—Ian Thorpe bounced back from two uncharacteristically poor performances to claim a crushing 200 meters freestyle victory over Dutch arch rival Pieter Van Den Hoogenband in the Fina short-course World Cup on Saturday. The world champion and world record holder was nearly a second-and-a-half clear of his rival when he stopped the clock at one minute 41.86 seconds to claim gold. *Reuters*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Orlando vs Toronto, 10 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.), Solar Sports, Seattle vs Dallas, 7 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS: Western And Southern Financial Masters, 10 p.m. (r), Star Sports

Australian Open, 2 p.m., Solar Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Playoffs, 7:30 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.), ESPN

NFL Super Bowl Highlights, 10:30 a.m., ESPN

POOL: Rack 'Em Up 2 - 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. (r), Star Sports

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour, 11 p.m., Star Sports

SOCCER: EPL, 7 a.m., Star Sports, 11 a.m., ESPN

Western Union World Football, 1 p.m., ESPN

Spanish Football League, 7 p.m. (r), Star Sports

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Manolo R. Iñigo

TWENTY-SIX foreign participants, led by 20 battle-ready cocker-breeders, are taking part in the blockbuster 2003 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby which gets going this afternoon at the Araneta Coliseum.

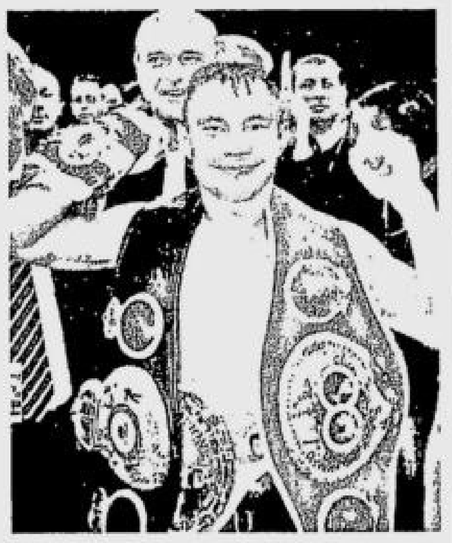
"The biggest ever since 1990," said Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta during Saturday's well-attended press launch at the Foodome in Cubao. "This is a new record," he added. Araneta is co-hosting this year's derby together with Jun "Idol" Santiago and three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares of the National Cockers Association.

Widely regarded as the "Olympics of Cockfighting," the World Slasher Derby was launched in July 1990, with Jun Santiago (Firefly) and Vic Amante (Fantastic) emerging joint champions with six points apiece. More than a decade later, in 2002 to be exact, Dicky Lim (Spencer Winslet), and the tandem of Nonoy Gonzales-Frank Berin (Scepter Mulawin) won the first and and second leg held in January and June, respectively, with the soft-spoken Lim finishing undefeated with 7.5 points and the Goñzales-Berin combine posting a 7-win, 1-loss slate.

The last American to win the prestigious World Slasher Derby was Roger Roberts, an electrical engineer from Atlanta, Georgia, who shared top honors with Filipino Tony Trebol in 2001. Roberts registered seven points in a team-up with Nene Araneta, fielding the Hatchets-Thunderbird Firefly IV. The Hatchets are a cross between the Hatch Roundheads and the Chet Roundheads which Roberts and his family have been breeding for more than 20 years in their farm in Winder, about 30 kilometers north of Atlanta.

Another American cocker-breeder was the colorful Carol Nesmith, who won the World Slasher Derby in 1997 and 1998 with his famed Blackwater entry. But his promising career ended shortly after when he was, according to reports, arrested and jailed for a federal offense.

This time, all eyes will be focused on the Americans again. Will they beat their Filipino counterparts? Aside from Roberts, the others to watch are the comebacking Ray Alexander of Alabama, who won here in 1994; Chuck Berry, who is hooked on Philippine cockfighting because of its honesty, sportsmanship and fair play; Travis Clark and Mike Formosa of California, who will lead other Slasher regulars such as Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman. On the other hand, carrying the local colors are past champions Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, former Tarlac Rep. Peping Cojuangco and longtime partner Esting Teopaco, Jun Santiago of the Firefly Group, Pampanga's Jingco brothers, Dicky Lim, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Mario Villamor, Patrick Antonio, Biboy Enriquez, William Co, Romy Pamatmat, Boy "Lechon" de Roca (who is now teaming up with Bulacan's Boy Garcia) and Frank Berin of Mulawin fame.



STILL CHAMP
Australian Kostya Tszyu celebrates retaining his triple world super lightweight boxing title after defeating American James Leija in their bout in Melbourne yesterday. The fight ended after the sixth round when Leija was unable to continue because of a lack of balance due to an injured ear drum, giving Tszyu his 30th win in 32 fights and his 14th title fight win.

AFP

KGB golfest slated

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Golfers sa Brodkast (KGB) will hold its Inaugural Tournament for 2003 on Wednesday (Jan. 23) at the Camp Aguinaldo course.

The 18-hole medal play tourney will be highlighted by the induction of the incoming KGB officers and members of the board by the guest of honor and inducting officer, Gen. Dionisio Santiago, Armed Forces Chief of Staff.

To be inducted are Dick Ildefonso, president; Roland Kapunan, vice-president; Roger Urbanes, treasurer; Roger Arienda, secretary; Ramy Diez, auditor,; Gary Lising, Al Quinn, PRO; Tony Reyes, Lally Trinidad, Subas Herrero, and Noel Plana as directors; Atty. Bert Maclang, legal consultant.

The ceremonial tee-off is scheduled at 6:30 a.m.

For more details, please call the KGB Secretariat c/o Mrs. Boots Urbanes at tel. nos. 922-9903, 951-6764, telefax no. 929-1298 cellphone No. 0917-8979903.

75 FIGHTS UP

World Slasher derby on

THE MUCH-AWAITED 2003 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby fires off at 3 p.m. today (Monday) at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum, featuring the elite of the international cockfighting scene.

Two-cock matches are billed this afternoon, followed by another two-cock series on Wednesday, Jan. 22 and ending with the four-cock finals on Friday, Jan. 24.

Some 75 explosive fights are on tap in the event hosted by Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Jun Santiago and Ito Ynares of the National Cockers Association.

The derby has attracted a record-breaking number of Filipino and 26 foreign entries, 20 of whom are touted American cockfighters, among them former World Slasher champions Ray Alexander of Alabama and engineer Roger Roberts of Georgia, Chuck Berry of Texas and California's Travis Clark, Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman. Also entered are cockfighters from Mexico, Canada, Guam, Malaysia and Australia.

The Filipinos will be led by former champions Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, the venerable James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Jun Santiago of the Firefly Group, Pampanga's Jun and Rudy Jingco, Dicky Lim, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Mario Villamor, Biboy Enriquez, William Co and Frank Berin of Mulawin fame.

Likewise in the fold are Rudy Albano, Ito Ynares, NCA legal counsel Jess Santos, BL-BG of Boy "Lechon" de Roca and Boy Garcia of Bulacan. Tos and Charlie Reyes, Boy Jiao, Alex and Gerry Escalona, the Madlambayan brothers, Jun Velasco, Louie Cua, Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa, Gerry Ramos, John Capinpin, Tony Tan, Edgar Santos, Ruel Ricafort, Johnny Jalandoni, Boy Velez, Eddie Boy Ledesma and Boy Nilo Lizares of Négros Occidental, Alex Tan of Cebu, Mindanao's Boy Primalion and Arthur and Bebot Uy, Southern Tagalogs Tony Lasala, Danny Mendoza and Romy Panganiban, Northern Luzon's Chito Bersamin, Eugene Martin and Rocky Molintas and Central Luzon's Patrick Puno, Jet Fernando, Jessie Viceo, Alan Tan and Tony Marfori.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Cassius Casas shot a 2-under-par 66 to rule the Chief of Staff Cup at the Aguinaldo course. Also today in 1996, Jennifer Rosales fired a 1-under-par 70 to post a six-stroke victory over Taiwanese Lu Shiao-Chuen and Dorothy Delasin in the 34th Philippine Amatuer Open at the Manila Golf and Country Club.

Int'l cockfighting exhibit set at Araneta Coliseum

THUNDERBIRD, major sponsor of the World Slasher Cup 2003 International 8-Cock Derby, has lined up various activities and promotional programs in line with the week-long cockfighting event.

Today, an *ati-atihan* band bannering Thunderbird Hi-Protein Platinum, the company's newest product, will be marching around the Araneta Center complex to drum up the event, while on Wednesday (9 a.m. to 12 noon), a gamefowl seminar at the Coliseum's gazebo will be held.

Hosts

Featuring the finest rooster-raisers from America locking horns against the cream-of-the-crop of Philippine cockfighting, the World Slasher Cup slated at the Araneta Coliseum on June 20, 22 and 24 is jointly hosted by Nene Araneta, Jun Santiago and Gov. Ito Ynares.

For the whole week, an exhibit about the various gamefowl bloodlines that have made an impact on Philippine cocking history will be on display at the green gate.

During the derby, pretty and sexy Thunderbird round girls will be available to perk up the action in between fights wherein Platinum T-shirts will be given to the audience.

Prizes and surprises are also at stake for derby fans at the Thunderbird booth located at the green gate where games and promo activities will be held.

Handling the project are business developer Jun Regala and Luzon II coordinator Chito Morales.

Mandaluyong tilt tomorrow

MANDALUYONG Coliseum presents the BRB 4-cock derby tomorrow (Jan. 21), featuring the fierce battle of Ucap members against Metro Manila cockers.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Complexor 3000 and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug Inc.

Entries must be submitted today (Jan. 20) from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

To host the event are Ucap boys Ruding, Boy and Bonjing Catajan. Entry fee is P10,000 while minimum bet is P5,500.

Slated on Thursday, Jan.23 is the Rotary 5-Cock Derby to be supported by Ucap president Raymond Velayo. "Proceeds of the derby will be used by the Rotary Club of New Manila in its various socio-civic projects," said Velayo.

Also scheduled is the Invictus 4-Cock derby of lawyer Mario Antonio on Jan. 28 and the 5-Cock derby on Jan. 30.

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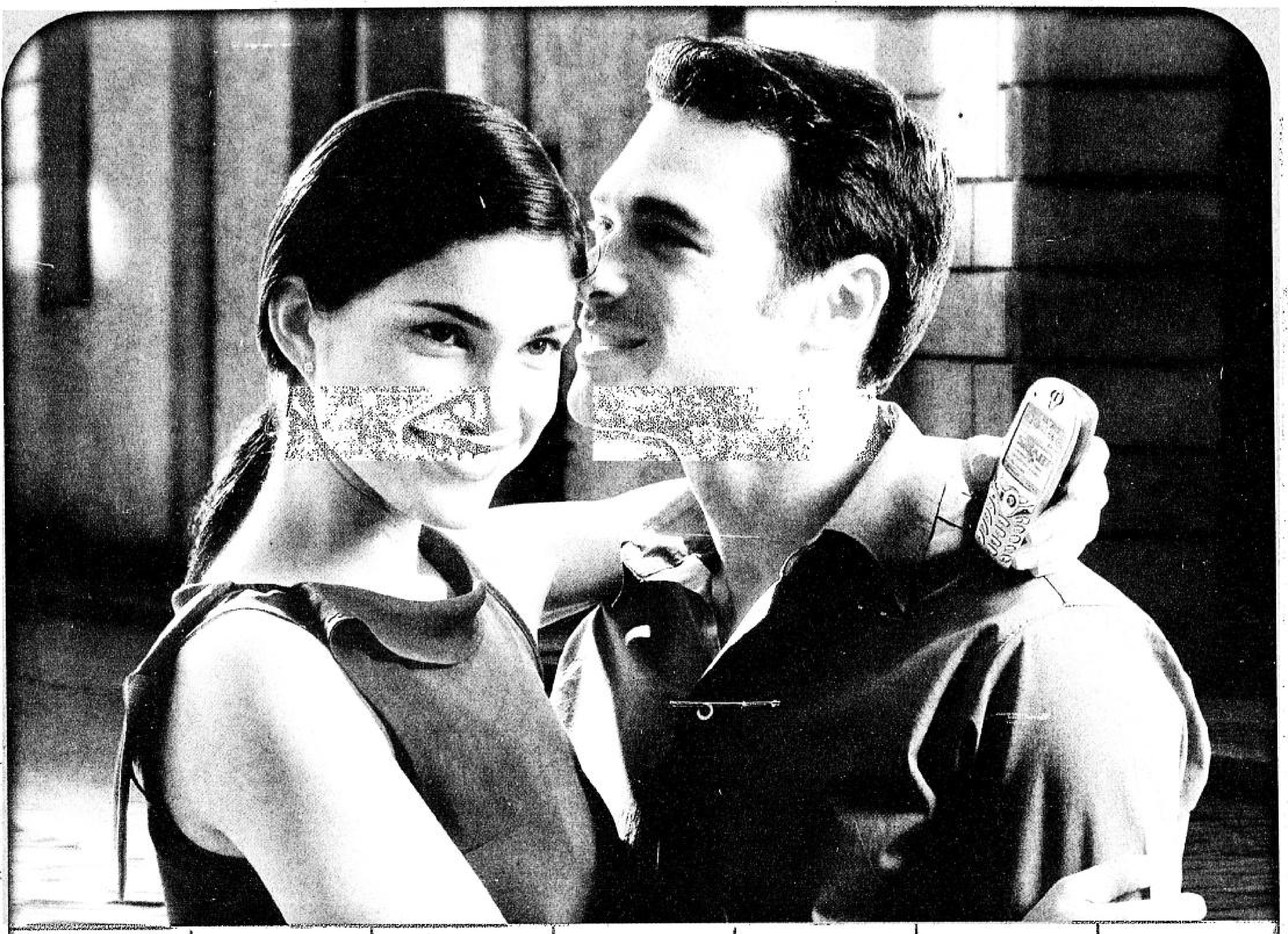

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■ BARE EYE: A second call to the Immigration Commissioner A26

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NBI, police clash over Llamas slay

There are now two sets of suspects

WYCOCO

By Christian V. Esguerra

THREE days after topnotch Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas was cremated, the National Bureau of Investigation and police authorities appear looking at different directions in his killing.

While NBI agents are dead set on finding their prime suspect, Cola Ditato, Pasay police are still hunting down two more suspects, one of whom could actually be the man who shot and killed the Ateneo law graduate last Jan. 10.

A Pasay investigator yesterday said the new suspects more closely resemble the killer who was described by witnesses as burly, dark-skinned and curly haired.

One of the new suspects is said to be Muslim trader, like original suspect Ditato.

The other new suspect is an "ordinary employee," according to the police officer who scored the NBI for zeroing in on Ditato as the possible killer.

"We're pressured because of the announcements being made by the NBI," the police source told the INQUIRER. "There's a great possibility that Ditato is not the killer that's why we're expanding our investigation."

The NBI named Ditato as their prime suspect based on the account of a witness who claimed he had seen the shooting incident near the corner of Buendia and Taft avenues and had actually trailed the killer up to a shopping mall.

The witness, who earlier issued a sworn statement at the Pasay police, had told NBI agents he was "60 to 70 percent sure" that Ditato was the killer.

He supposedly arrived at that conclusion after comparing a picture of Ditato taken in 1998 with a sketch of the gunman.

A key point of contention between police and the NBI involves the motorcycle the killer had left behind.

"We're not clearing Ditato," the Pasay officer said. "He's also one of our suspects. But if indeed he was the one who had killed Llamas, why did he leave his motorcycle?"

The prober said the move could not have been a result of panic because the same NBI witness had said in his statement that the killer seemed composed after the incident. The witness claimed that the gunman was even checking his gun while casually walking away from the crime site.

In reaction to claims of the Pasay police, the National Bureau of Investigation said it was not ruling out other possible suspects in the killing of Llamas.

An NBI official, who requested anonymity, said yesterday that they are not focusing their investigation solely on trader Cola Ditato.

"The (NBI) director (Reynaldo Wycoco) did not say specifically that Cola was the gunman," the source said.

He noted that it was an NBI witness who said that Ditato bore a "60 to 70 percent" resemblance to the gunman.

The investigator said that the NBI is still trying to determine if Ditato really killed Llamas during a traffic altercation in Pasay on Jan. 10.

"To say that we are after the wrong man is wrong. We are also looking at the possibility that another man killed Llamas," the source said.

He said the NBI is trying to catch Ditato because he owned the Kawasaki motorcycle that the gunman left in the crime scene.

"He could tell us who was in possession of the motorcycle at the time of the killing, if it was not him," the source said.

He said Ditato was still talking to his relative, who also happens to be an NBI agent, for his possible surrender.

Wycoco had said that, even with the ongoing negotiations, the NBI is not stopping its manhunt for Ditato.

Despite the crucial differences in the investigation, Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad has directed the local police to use "appropriate force" in arresting Ditato.

"That would mean shooting him should he resist arrest," the mayor said, invoking local executives' authority over their respective police units. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*

MARILOU Llamas, mother of Jose Ramon Llamas, receives in deep grief half of the ashes of the cremated Ateneo law graduate. The rest of the ashes went to Sid Castro, the victim's girlfriend.

MANDY NAVASERO

STO. NIÑO FIESTA SA PANDACAN. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and wife Evelina "Beng" Atienza dance on the street as they lead the participants to the Buling-Buling Fiesta sa Pandacan in honor of the Sto. Niño. Also joining the event are 4th District Councilor Don Bagatsing (left), 6th District Councilor Beth Rivera (2nd from left), Pandacan Station Commander Ramon de Jesus. A fire hit Tondo during yesterday's Feast. Story on page A26.

City abduction still a mystery

By Jerome Aning

THE WESTERN Police District continues to be puzzled by the mysterious abduction of one security aide and a friend of a Manila councilor Friday afternoon.

Officials of the Sta. Ana police station and the WPD's general assignments section, which are handling the case, refused to give any update except to say that the incident is still under investigation.

The only development was that someone hailed 5th District Councilor Richard Ibay early Saturday morning, using the two-way radio of his abducted aide Wilfredo Avila.

In a phone interview, Ibay told the INQUIRER that the radio caller wanted to meet him at 9 a.m. at the McDonald's branch at Kingswood Hotel along Pablo Ocampo Street, La Paz, Makati City.

The alderman said he informed the police about the incident but decided not to keep the appointment.

Undercover policemen did not find anyone suspicious when they went to the fastfood outlet and placed it under surveillance, according to Ibay.

Heavily armed men abducted Avila, Victor Gabiola, another security aide, and Avila's friend John Palileo, a mediaman's brother, in front of the councilor's house in San Andres Bukid around 2 p.m. Friday.

The suspects, who were armed with long firearms, arrived on board a brown Mitsubishi L-300 van and a white Mitsubishi Lancer (JMB 495), and even had two motorcycle escorts.

Victor Gabiola was later released at the corner of Gil Puyat Avenue and Edsa in Makati.

Ibay said he does not think he was the target of the abduction. He said he does not have any idea why his aides and Palileo would be abducted.

He also said that he does not know of any trouble which his aides may have gotten into.

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A second call to the Immigration Commissioner

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THIS is a case that should make concerned people, including Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, lose sleep.

The case has also sent some people in Cebu to tears.

Ms Domingo because, based on latest developments, she might be detaining, for the last three years, an innocent man who had been charged with six counts of child abuse or pedophilia.

For the record, all six charges have been dropped by the court.

The man is Perry McNeeley, who last month wrote us to plead that his plight be made public.

We published that letter, written from the BI prison in Mandaue City.

Sorry, nothing came of it.

Ms Domingo's office would later contend that, although the six counts of child abuse against McNeeley have all been dropped, this came about "because the complainants were paid off."

***

Anyway, the BI legal section told the INQUIRER that there's still one pending case—lascivious act—being heard against McNeeley.

While languishing in jail, McNeeley continues to explain that a fellow American had fabricated lies that caused him to end up in the BI jail.

We had doubted that claim at first.

But yesterday, we got news that the American which McNeeley branded as his nemesis has been arrested.

Randy Lee Campbell, the BI announced, was recaptured Thursday night in Angeles City by agents led by Ansari Macaayan.

Salven Lagumbay, young and reputable newsman from Cebu who has been fighting for McNeeley's freedom, said Campbell used a fake name—Mark Olsen.

Lagumbay said Campbell is facing rape charges in Cebu.

Lagumbay added that it was Campbell who had bribed authorities to arrest McNeeley during a party over three years ago.

For her part, Commissioner Domingo said that, although the captured suspect is due for deportation, "he will remain in jail pending resolution of the child abuse case that his victims have filed against him."

***

Going back to McNeeley, the BI has not been able to prove the man's guilt, which cannot be said of the other captured American.

Now, permit us to ask: Should McNeeley not be granted bail now that only one lesser case is being heard against him?

Also, there appears growing merit in McNeeley's claim that the fugitive arrested in Angeles last week had caused all his (Mcneeley's) miseries.

Based on gathered details, McNeeley's American enemy is a sleek operator.

Unfortunately, despite these latest developments, the BI obviously has not found any need to look again into the McNeeley case.

In case she's still half-asleep, we take this chance of refreshing Ms Domingo's mind by printing portion of the McNeeley letter which we had used in trying to wake the bureau up.

Here: "I am a retired pilot of the Trans World Airlines in the United States. Seven years ago, I decided to come back to the Philippines, where I settled in Cebu.

I am also a boxing manager/promoter here in Cebu and, in three years' time, I have already produced one PABA champion (flyweight Roselito Campana) and one RP champ (bantamweight Johnny Lear), plus a slew of promising young talents.

I was picked up by the BID 'for questioning.' I was brought to Manila, where I was eventually detained at the BID's Bicutan cell.

I was never ever given a chance for fair hearing and was denied my right to post bail.

Since then, I have been transferred here at the BID detention center in Mandaue, where I see no chance of becoming a free man again.

But while in jail, I continue to support my Filipino boxers financially and career-wise. I give them their weekly allowances, provide them shelter and health care, and even help their respective families.

I feel that my basic human right has been violated and hope that, through your column, I may get a fair chance that higher authorities may finally allow me to at least post bail.

I have never been found guilty of any crime anywhere in the world and it is very hard to understand how some enemies could use corrupt Philippine individuals to totally destroy a person's name and reputation and even keep him in jail indefinitely."

Salven Lagumbay was right. We might be doing injustice to a man who is here to help make things better for some poor Filipinos.

In case the BI is wondering, this is, yes, a wake-up call.

Fire mars Sto. Niño festivities in Tondo

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE FEAST of the Sto. Niño turned sorrowful for many families in Tondo, Manila after 20 to 30 shanties were razed to the ground during a fire yesterday.

Arson investigators are looking to reports that an unattended candle started the blaze.

The fire began in the shanty of a certain Ruth Amida along Road 10 Vitas, Tondo, Manila, near Smokey Mountain, said FO3 Emmanuel Gaspar, of the Manila Fire Department.

Luckily, no one was reported hurt or injured, Gaspar added.

He said the blaze broke out at 5:48 a.m. and quickly spread to other shanties, which were made of light materials.

Insp. Danilo Gomez, chief of the SM police community precinct in Vitas, said there were also reports that a push cart, like the ones used by scavengers, suddenly erupted into flames.

The fire reached the fifth alarm at 6:02 a.m. while firefighters from Manila and surrounding areas arrived.

The conflagration was put under control at around 6:20 a.m. and was finally put out some 10 minutes later, Gaspar said.

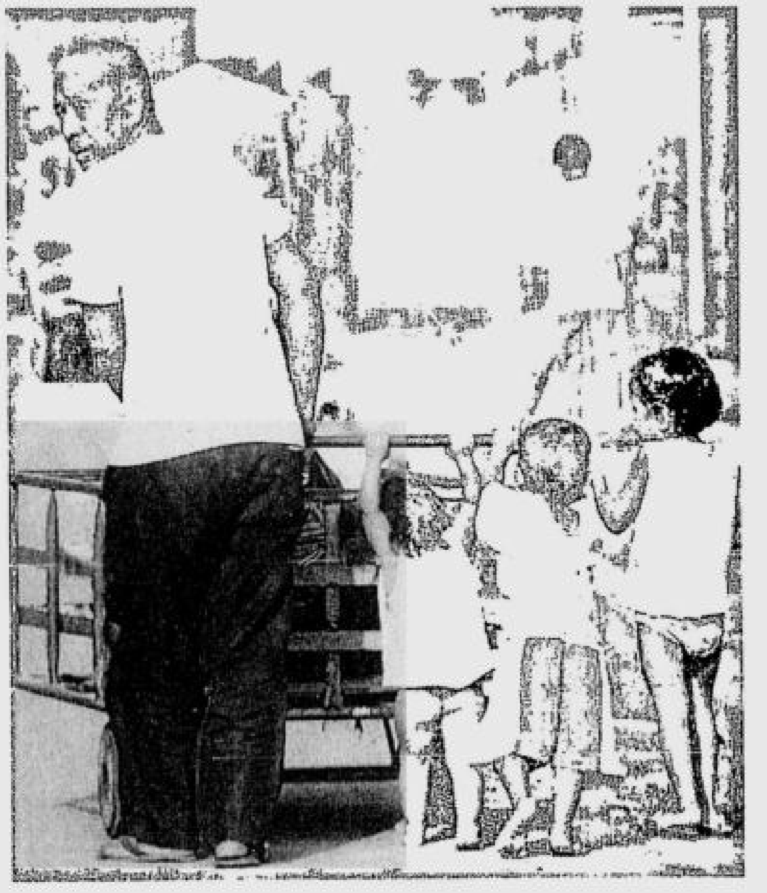
Famous natural healer returns

RESPONDING to the clamor of Filipinos who have experienced its natural healing method, Harmony Therapy Center is bringing back Singapore's noted Natural Healer and Foot reflexologist Desmond Sim on Jan. 23 until the 27th to conduct diagnosis and treatment at Harmony Therapy Center, McKinley Arcade, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

Desmond Sim, an actor-turned-natural healer, has diagnosed and treated more than a thousand Filipino patients, including TV and movie celebrities, politicians and media personalities during six visits last year. Those who have experienced his painless yet precise diagnoses were so impressed that they have brought family and friends for treatment.

Recognized and recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Foot Reflexology Method of Harmony Therapy Center ancient and modern research also practices traditional Chinese and modern Western formulas in foot reflexology. This was examined and analyzed by modern instruments that attest to the method's safety and effectiveness.

As there are limited slots available, please call Harmony Therapy Center at 705-1649 or 705-1215 for diagnosis and treatment schedule.



ALL THE WAY

How far this family, led by a poor father, would go in the cruel city of commerce is not hard to tell. The man is actually introducing his children to the ways of scavenging, pushing their dilapidated cart all the way to nowhere.

ERIK ARAZAS

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, January 20, 2003
2nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Heb 5:1-10
Gospel: Mk 2:18-22

One day, when the disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees were fasting, some people asked Jesus, "Why is it that both the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but yours do not?" Jesus answered, "How can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the day will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them and on that day they will fast.

"No one sews a piece of new cloth on an old coat, because the new patch will shrink and tear away from the old cloth, making a worse tear. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins, for the wine would burst the skins and then both the wine and the skins would be lost. But new wine, new skins!"

Commentary

A famous theologian points to this passage as proof of the "existensial impossibility of being sad in the presence of Jesus." When he is asked why disciples do not fast, Jesus does not give a legal answer, pronouncing on whether fasting is allowed or forbidden. Rather, he gives an existensial answer: his friends, even if they wanted to, cannot fast, just as guests sharing in the joy of a wedding banquet, cannot fast while the festivities are going on. What person in his right mind would feel compelled to practice penance in the middle of a party? To maintain genuine closeness to Jesus then is the secret of joy. Why is it that so many followers of Jesus experience neither his sorrow nor his joy?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITIONAL LAW)—Power of judicial review—The [Supreme] Court's power of judicial review may be exercised in constitutional cases only if all the following requisites are complied with, namely: (1) the existence of an actual and appropriate case or controversy; (2) a personal and substantial interest of the party raising the constitutional question; (3) the exercise of judicial review is pleaded at the earliest opportunity; and (4) the constitutional question is the *lis mota* of the case. Petitioners' prayer to prevent Congress from enacting into law a proposed bill lowering the membership age in the Sangguniang Kabataan does not present an actual justiciable controversy. A proposed bill is not subject to judicial review because it is not a law. A proposed bill creates no right and imposes no duty legally enforceable by the Court. A proposed bill, having no legal effect, violates no constitutional right or duty. The Court has no power to declare a proposed bill constitutional or unconstitutional because that would be in the nature of rendering an advisory opinion on a proposed act of Congress. The power of judicial review cannot be exercised in vacuo. There can be no justiciable controversy involving the constitutionality of a proposed bill. The Court can exercise its power of judicial review only after a law is enacted, not before. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Carpio, Montesclaros v. Commission on Elections, G. R. No. 152295, July 9, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Lina offers measures to combat hazing

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER relieving four Philippine National Academy officials for the death of cadet Jeoffrey Andawi, Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina listed several suggestions meant to combat hazing activities.

According to Lina, the younger cadets must be separated from the upper classman, who are known to bully their greenhorn counterparts.

"There must be a strict segregation (of the younger and elder cadets)," he said in a phone interview, adding that with less contact between the two groups, there would also be less opportunities for abuse.

He also said tactical officers should be posted in strategic areas within the school premises to ensure that no hazing activities would take place.

Another of Lina's proposed measure is the inculcation of an honor system wherein cadets would be trained to be honest and admit incidents of wrongdoing among their ranks.

The DILG secretary said his proposed measures are meant to prevent a repeat of Andawi's death.

"We'll do anything possible so we can really bring justice into the academy," he said.

On Jan. 5, fourth class cadet Andawi's body was found bleeding inside a bathroom in the PNPA. Findings show that he died from head injuries, which officials believed had been due to hazing activities.

Lina had claimed that Andawi fell and banged his head on a urinal.

But, following the incident, Lina has ordered the relief of PNPA director Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., commandant of cadets Supt. Roman Felix, camp commander Supt. George Rabina and tactical officer Senior Insp. Rizalito Gapas.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla was named the new PNPA director.

The two suspects in Andawi's death, Jeromy Pulquiso and Darwin Balog-ang, have since been taken into custody.

UP backs waste management act

UP Diliman is supporting the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 by helping demonstrate food and yard waste composting through the use of the ABD-812 shredder and the organic enzyme plus, an organic solution in its Materials Recovery Facility. The MRF (barangay level) is partly assisted by EMB-DENR and Eco Wise Corp.

Shredding reduces the original volume of waste materials by more than 50% of its original volume. The organic enzyme plus catalyzes decomposition process, eliminate odor and controls fly infestation associated with composting and converts the biodegradables into organic fertilizer. The big difference of the ABD Shredders from the rest is its efficiency and price. The design was based on the problems encountered in the MRF making it more environment friendly, cost efficient, and easy to maintain.

The partnership of the ABD Shredders and the Organic Enzyme Plus which is considered as the Breakthrough Technology on Solid Waste Management was formally introduced before barangay captains, school principals, municipal environment & natural resources officers led by Dr. Renato L. Excurrel of General Trias, Cavite. A demonstration of its features, operation and maintenance was held at the Alumni Hostel in Magsaysay Street inside the UP campus. Speakers in the affair were Prof. Armand Basug, Head of the UP Task Force on Solid Waste Management and Dr. Nonoy Zuñiga, president of Eco Wise Corp.

Packages for mini-MRF or barangay level MRF, including the transfer of technology are now being marketed by Eco Wise Corp. with offices at the 2nd Flr. LMC Bldg. 3741 Bautista St., Palanan, Makati City.

BF picks MMDA general manager

By Leila B. Salaverria

WITH the task of juggling two posts looming over of him, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando has appointed a general manager that could help him run his projects at the MMDA.

Robert Nacianceno has assumed the post. As MMDA General Manager, he will be in charge of overseeing Fernando's projects and making sure his instructions are followed. He basically takes over the MMDA while the chief is out.

According to Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel De Dios, Nacianceno was already invited to the MMDA's corporate planning session in Subic the weekend after Fernando was officially appointed to the DPWH.

Nacianceno was also the one who presided over the directors' meeting at the MMDA on Friday while Fernando was in Japan.

Nacianceno is no stranger to the post, having held the same position when Ismael Mathay and Prospero Oreta headed the MMDA.

Recruiters warned against deception

ORGANIZED recruitment agencies reiterated yesterday their demand for an inventory of all Artist Record Book (ARB) released starting July last year when Director General Dante Liban took over the helm of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Alfredo Palmiery and Lorenzo "Jing" Langomez, chair and president, respectively, of the Philippine Association of Recruitment Agencies Deploying Artists (Parada) also called for a closing of ranks to boost their clamor for the resignation or ouster of Liban and his deputy, Mila Hernandez.

Parada asserted that the audit would ferret out irregularities attending the issuance of ARBs under Liban's watch.

"Corruption and irregularities in the issuance of ARBs is an affliction that has long beset the industry. Unqualified talents do not deserve to become ARB holders," Langomez said, adding that deploying them would wreak havoc in their industry.

Langomez cited the case of at least five applicants who obtained ARBs without undergoing skill assessment, and were charged P25,000 each by their managers for the document.

"I would like to warn all Parada members not to be deceived and swayed by the squid tactics and sweet promises being alternately employed and offered by DG Dante Liban to stop us from pursuing the foremost issues of irregularities and corruption, inventory of ARB disposition in the period of July to December 2002, and his immediate resignation," Langomez stated in an advisory.

He was referring to Liban's pronouncements that he has taken steps toward the privatization of the testing and certification of OPAs.

Langomez argued that the authority to turn over to the private sector the skill assessment of OPAs belonged to the Labor Secretary.

The 240-strong Parada and other industry organizations supporting the "Oust Liban Movement" are poised to hold a march-rally on Wednesday from the labor department in Intramuros to Malacañang to press their demand for Liban's ouster.

Kakampi ng Naaapi! Magbabalik na!

Email: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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Sulong Edukasyon revs up education sector

QUALITY education is hard to achieve and maintain as it entails a consistent and step-by-step effort to shore up the initiatives of concerned private and government sectors. Thus, it is heartening to know of a growing number of non-government organizations, industries and corporate enterprises supporting various education projects and programs in the country.

Such is Bato Balani Foundation Inc. (BBFI), the social-development arm of Diwa Asia Publishing Group and First Asia Ventures Capital Inc. BBFI has once again proven its commitment to quality education through Sulong Edukasyon, a project that will embark on a massive educational campaign through book donations, scholarships, teacher training and seminars, as well as information dissemination on how everyone can partake in making quality learning accessible to the Filipino youth.

"Sulong Edukasyon is our commitment to education. BBFI is devoted to make it everybody's business to ensure that Filipino children get quality education," said Saturnino G. Belen, chair of Bato Balani Foundation.

Leading the pack of the Sulong Edukasyon project is the Tulong sa Paaralan, Tulay sa Kaunlaran program (TSP-TSK) that made available P15 million worth of brand new textbooks and educational reference materials to 188 public elementary and high schools in seven regions of the country. The donation was made possible by two of BBFI's major corporate partners, namely Belgosa Media Systems and Diwa Learning Systems. The donation aims to benefit an estimated 94,000 elementary and high school students.

Another thrust of the Sulong Edukasyon is the teacher development program under which training programs in basic education for preschool, elementary and high school teachers are organized. The two major programs under this thrust are "How To Be A Highly Effective Teacher" and "Society of Educators for a Better Philippines." It also provides support to various teacher scholarships, recognitions and similar programs run by educational institutions.

Along with these programs are Sulong Edukasyon's student development initiatives like scholarships, recognitions and similar projects of its corporate partners like Fastech-PUP Scholarship. It also emphasizes environmental and sports development programs for students.

Achieving and maintaining quality education in the Philippines is probably an elusive goal that would take a long time for the education sector to achieve. But with organizations like BBFI, quality education is a work in progress.

JOLLIBEE VISITS PGH

Responding to an urgent plea for material assistance for poor patients at the PGH Pediatric Ward, Robert Poblete, vice-president for HR of Jollibee Foods Corp. (right, beside Jollibee mascot), hands a check to Dr. Philip Cruz of PGH under the Give A Life Project. The amount was raised through a voluntary donation program involving Jollibee employees. Also shown are Owen Castañeda, Amythel Divina, Valerie Santos and Ever Español.

IBM SIGNS UP NEW BUSINESS PARTNER

IBM Philippines recently signed up Accent Micro Technologies Inc. as its new accredited reseller of IBM products such as IBM e-Servers, ThinkPads and consumer desktops. Shown are (seated from left) Karrie Ilagan, PCD country manager, IBM Philippines, Jajo Quintos, general manager, IBM Philippines, Allyxon Cua, EVP/general manager, Accent Micro Technologies Inc., Bertrand Ng, vice president, Accent Micro Technologies Inc., (standing from left) Dan David, ESG country manager, IBM Philippines, John Gomez, assistant vice president, Accent Micro Technologies Inc., Parkin Chiu, business development manager, Accent Micro Technologies Inc., Philip Chua, PCD regional channels manager, IBM Asean, and Marian Cruz, personal computing division, IBM Philippines.

First South East Asian Onychomycosis
Round Table Meeting

1ST SOUTHEAST ASIAN ONYCHOMYCOSIS CONFAB

The Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine recently played host to the First Southeast Asian Onychomycosis Round Table Meeting held at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. The roundtable meeting aimed at getting the consensus about nail disorders, more specifically fungal infections (Tinea Unguim) in the Southeast Asian region. Dr. Evangeline B. Handog, president of PSCM, was overall chair of the meet. Dr. Robert Baran of the Nail Disease Center in Cannes, France was keynote speaker. Shown standing are Dr. Rattaporn Ungpakorn (Thailand), Dr. Cheong Wai Kwong (Thailand), Dr. Kusmarinah Bramono (Indonesia), Dr. Rosalina E. Nadela (Philippines), and Dr. Seow Chew Swee (Thailand). Seated are professor Katsutaro Nishimoto (Japan), Dr. Steven Chow (Malaysia), professor Unandar Budimulja (Indonesia), Dr. Baran (France), Dr. Handog (Philippines), professor Goh Chee Leok (Singapore), and Dr. Filomena L. Montinola (Philippines).

Speaker:
Den Mo Tsai Ph D

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED CONFAB

The Philippine Association for the Gifted recently held its 5th annual convention titled 'The Challenge of Unfulfilled Potential: The Underachieving Gifted' in celebration of the National Week of the Gifted. Well-known expert on the underachieving gifted child professor Den Mo Tsai Ph.D. (5th from left) spoke on the topic to teachers, parents, psychiatrists, and child-care workers.

Filipino nurses in demand in US, Europe

THE CALL for hiring Filipino nurses in medical centers worldwide has been enthusiastic nowadays, particularly in the United States, Great Britain and much of the countries in the European Union. In fact, hiring these nurses has prompted many US-based hospitals to hire recruitment agencies here in the Philippines in order to hire as many nurses for immediate employment. Overseas Filipino nurses have more employment opportunities in these countries and they prove to be a generous source of income to foreign exchange earnings.

However, one of the fears is the possible brain drain of local nurses due to the tempting offer of bigger wages and comfortable working environment for them than here. Nurses in the country earn an average of $200 a month, while they stand to get $4000-8000 monthly in the United States. Recruiters are now taking the opportunity of the country's unstable economic, political and peace and order situations.

"You have recruiters coming in here and taking all the experienced nurses from the specialized units in the hospitals. It is reported in the Wall Street Journal that some recruiters are going directly to the schools and taking all the clinical instructors overseas," according to Mario Espino Jr., chair and CEO of Total Care Staffing Services LLC, an international nurse hiring agency that considers nurses from the Philippines one of the best, if not the best, in the world.

Espino says this essentially dismantles the educational process that produced these nurses for a very long time. "It reduces this country's capabilities from producing $46 billion to the economy of the Philippines. That's not what you want, especially from the country that produces the best nurses in the world. We have seen this happen in other countries."

The fear is that it will contribute to the health care crisis now experienced by our local hospitals with the impending passage of the controversial medical malpractice bill now in the House of Representatives.

He proposes a grassroots solution to curb this possibility. "We are setting up learning centers that will attune Philippine nursing schools to the educational standards (in the United States)." This way, even nurses bent on staying in the country will be able to use the same standards in the hospitals in the country, further upgrading medical methods beneficial to the nursing profession in the country. "Brain-draining the Philippines is not acceptable to us," adds Espino.

Total Care Staffing Services, with its US headquarters based in Coral Gables, Florida and an international base here in Manila, is the premier nurse hiring agency of Filipino nurses bound for US hospitals here in the Philippines and one of the top agencies in nurse recruitment in America. Its clients include major hospitals in at least 10 states, particularly in Florida, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and California. It has been a major player in the United States for more than 10 years, but had started operations in the Philippines only last November 2000.

Nurses who have plans to go to the US have to pass the Philippine licensure exams, and should have at least two years hospital experience, aside from satisfactory academic scores. To be able to work there, they should be able to pass the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), TSE (Test of Spoken English), CGFNS (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools) and/or NCLex (National Council Licensure Exams). Reviews for these exams, plus the processing of their immigrant visas and other legal services relevant to their work in the United States, are provided by Total Care Staffing Services at no cost to them.

Right now, it has already sent around 200 nurses to the United States successfully, with no legal entanglements with the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), as they make sure all working and immigrant visa requirements are fulfilled before the nurses fly to their destined workplace. They are also given orientation on the basic US laws they need to follow once they reach the US.

"We are a company with a serious commitment to protecting both our clients in the United States and the Filipino nurses because we want to establish goodwill. We don't take money from the nurses because the hospital that hires them through our agency will pay for it. That's why we are different from manpower agencies. Everybody now tries to emulate our system here," concludes Espino, who has to his credit 23 years of health care administrative experience.

Total Care Staffing Services has its website http://www.totalnurses4us.com. They can be called at 536-9686, 522-6360, 522-6371, or 536-6369.

BITS Clips

APC's Pick-A-Prize promo

ASIA Pacific College (APC), an educational partnership of SM (Shoemart) and IBM Philippines, is now accepting applicants for school year 2003-2004. As an incentive to its applicants, APC has launched a Pick-A-Prize Promo. Three or more senior high school students who apply at the same time with complete requirements are each entitled to pick a prize. Entrance examinations are scheduled every Saturday from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the APC Admissions Office, 3 Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

UPHS '54 golden anniversary

"WE ARE the Survivors", a theme UPHS '54 will carry for its Golden Anniversary Celebration to be held in Caylabne Beach Resort, Ternate Cavite, from Dec. 3 to 5, 2004. The organizing committee is making extensive efforts to get in touch with as many as it can to make this affair well attended and joyful. Alumni are requested to keep in touch. Alumni are requested to send over their contact addresses, phones, and e-mails and a 2" x 2" colored picture for the VCD preparation. The organizing committee secretariat is at 1603 Medical Plaza, Amorsolo Street, Makati, Philippines, with telephone numbers 751-8487, e-mail blgozon@i-next.net, fax 751-8500 and cell numbers 0920-2845901.

Study Smart for Muslim Youth

THE YOUNG Moro Professionals Inc. conducted a Study Smart seminar for 100 Muslim teenagers Dec. 21 at the Salaam Compound basketball court, Barangay Culiat, Tandang Sora. Led by Muslim trainers, the seminar aimed to train young Muslims on how to study well and improve memory. It also encouraged the Muslim youth to take up college degrees. Vice-Mayor Herbert Bautista was the guest speaker. Engineer Don Loong cited that human development in Muslim areas continue to be dismal in the field of education. For scholarships and information about YMP, log onto www.bangsamoro.com or text 0920-5257954, or call the Commission on Higher Education's Alikhan Macalandong.

Lackluster performance

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN "Half Past Dead," **Steven Seagal** plays an FBI undercover agent who pretends to be a con man and jailbird. He happens to be at the right place and time when a gang breaks into the prison to spirit out a condemned man, so they can get their hands on the huge fortune in gold bars that he's buries in an obscure location that only he knows about.

On Seagal's side is another con man played by rapper **Ja Rule**, while their foes include a sexy spitfire portrayed by Fil-American actress **Nia Peeples**.

Seagal is visibly overweight and merely goes through the action motions, but the younger Ja Rule and Peeples acquit themselves well in their edgy roles. In some big action scenes, however, they're upstaged by the high-tech firepower that the production uses to distract viewers' attention from its thin plot.

A good twist is a hostage-taking incident involving a female member of the US supreme court, no less. She finds herself strapped to the same electric chair that was intended for the condemned man, who has to escape from the prison by helicopter so that he can lead his "liberators" to his gold cache.

Most of the time, however, the movie relies not on ironic little juxtapositions like this, but on action and visual pyrotechnics that provide temporary excitement but can't sustain the film's rise to a satisfying climax.

But the movie's biggest drawback is Seagal's lackluster performance. If he wants to energize his career as an action star, he should get back in shape, and reclaim the combination of vitality and dry wit that made him such an action sensation some years ago.

Feedback

FROM **Puring Sucgang** of Parañaque, M.M.: "When I read your Dec. 26 column, I heaved a sigh of relief as I said, 'Thank God, we still have people like him!' I'm referring to your analysis of some TV commercials, and added to this was your previous column on the kind of TV shows we are getting.

"I cannot but fully agree that many TV commercials have little regard for decency in terms of language and message. Sometimes, there's even stark obscenity in them, like the TVC of a skin ointment brand where a foreign-looking couple were almost 'mashing' each other (it was not played for a while and later reappeared in a seemingly 'tamer' version, though still not relevant to the product being advertised).

"Add to this a TV spot showing cockroaches swarming over a sink and kitchen counter, and even magnifies bacteria to highlight the cleaning ,power of a product.

"Perhaps you can also add to the list some news broadcasts, especially on the alleged No. 1 channel, where we find too many violent crimes and interviews. These broadcasts, sad to say, also 'glorifies' people who hug the headlines, not for their good deeds but for their notoriety, with their frequent interviews.

"There are even newscasters and hosts who 'feed' words to interviewees to make them come up with negative replies, which pollute the minds of viewers..." (to be concluded.)

Movies on TV

ON HBO: Monday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 a.m., "The Meeksville Ghost." 2 p.m., "Philadelphia." 5:30 p.m., "Radioland Murders." Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 a.m., "Little Women." 10 a.m., "National Lampoon's European Vacation." Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 12:45 p.m, "Evolution." Thursday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 a.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars." 12:50 a.m., "Frequency."

On the Cinemax channel: Monday, Jan. 20 at 8 a.m.., "Regarding Henry." 9:45 a.m., "Mercy Streets." 9 p.m., "Stormy Weather." 12:30 a.m., "The War of the Worlds." 4 a.m., Cinema Secrets: Super Models."

Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 9 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: High Strung." 11:15 a.m., "Final Destination." 7 p.m., "The Bonfire of the Vanities." Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 9:45 a.m., "When Worlds Collide." 11 a.m., "The Day the World Ended." 12:15 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: When in Rome."

Thursday, Jan 23 at 8:30 a.m., "Kissed by an Angel." 1:45 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Fantasy Worlds." 5:45 p.m., "Stand and Deliver."

The Banger Sisters

OSCAR awardees **Susan Sarandon** and **Goldie Hawn** topbill the new comedy-drama "The Banger Sisters," playing two friends with wild pasts that were fueled by sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Decades later, the two former groupies reunite for some soul-searching, nostalgia and (dysfunctional) interaction.

Another Oscar winner, **Geoffrey Rush**, is cast as Hawn's eccentric travel partner and Sarandon's daughters are played by **Erika Christensen** and **Eva Amurri**.

Protest rally

ENTERTAINMENT and media people are enjoined to participate in a rally against the proposed additional 10 percent VAT, scheduled at 1 p.m., today, Jan. 20. Meeting place is the Film Center at the CCP complex, from which staging ground the rallyists will proceed to the Philippine Senate building to articulate their protest.

'TOO HOT TO HANDLE'
Sexy star-turned-recording artist Patricia Javier will hold her first major show, "Rated PJ: Too Hot To Handle," a pre-Valentine offering on Feb. 12, 8 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater (FAT). This will be the first time Patricia will address a bigger crowd. She did her first live concert last year at Dish at Rockwell's Power Plant Mall in Makati City. At the FAT, Patricia will enthrall and entertain the audience with her danceable ditties spiced up with never-before-seen choreography and stage effects. The concert is produced by David Lao's Prelude Entertainment and will be directed by Joy Alonzo.

Who will play Cory Quirino?

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

FROM the original list of eight actresses listed down to star in the film-bio of **Cory Quirino**, the choices have now been limited to only three.

Producer **Donna Villa** of Golden Lion Films and director **Carlo J. Caparas**, the couple who secured the rights to do the bio-pic, will announce their final choice within the week.

Cory, granddaughter of the late President **Elpidio Quirino**, will also have a hand in choosing the actress who will star in her film-bio.

The three actresses who were shortlisted are **Dawn Zulueta**, **Charlene Gonzales** and **Ara Mina**.

The original list included-**Gretchen Barretto**, **Zsa Zsa Padilla**, **Dina Bonnevie**, **Pops Fernandez**, **Alice Dixson** and **Ruffa Gutierrez**.

Ara Mina is notably not in the original list. However, Carlo and Donna considered the young actress after she bagged the top acting plum in the recent Metro Manila Film Festival for the cross-cultural drama, "Mano Po."

Dawn is no stranger to true-to-life dramas. She played the title role in the film-bio of actress and rape victim **Maggie de la Riva**. The movie, also produced by Golden Lion Films, was a box-office success.

Charlene, for her part, has also played a true-to-life character on the big screen as the wife of **Epimaco Velasco** in the bio-pic of the former NBI director. Action king **Fernando Poe Jr.** starred in the film.

Charlene has likewise played leading ladies in action-dramas opposite **Cesar Montano** ("Kadre") and **Phillip Salvador** ("Resbak").

Carlo and Donna are looking for a star who possesses Cory's distinct characteristics and features—fair-skinned, intelligent and articulate, with a body to flaunt.

Carlo will direct the true-to-life story from a script which he also wrote. The highlight of the film is Cory's sensational kidnapping in 1995.

Carlo and Donna will also coordinate with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to come up with a script that is faithful to the actual kidnapping incident.

Cory provided her input to the script by giving a detailed account of what really happened during her three-day ordeal in the hands of her abductors.

The sensational 1995 kidnapping took place in Lake Caliraya in Pagbilao, Quezon.

Cory was on board her red Toyota Corolla when five men abducted her after she left Lake Caliraya on Sept. 23, 1995. She was with her driver-bodyguard **Panfilo Catuday** and assistant **Helen Salaver**.

The five men's car blocked the path of Cory's vehicle in an isolated portion of the Maharlika Highway. They took her P4,000 cash and an estimated P70,000 worth of jewelry.

For three days, the abductors brought Cory and her two companions to different places in Laguna and as far as Camarines Sur.

A news report stated Cory's kidnappers were in their late 20's and early 30's when the kidnapping took place.

It is not yet known, however, who are being considered to play Cory's abductors in the movie.

Cory and her companions were rescued by the police on Sept. 26, 1995 in a road checkpoint in Calauag, Quezon, where her abductors' car had an accident.

Cory has since become an anti-crime crusader.

In May 1998, the five men were sentenced to death for highway robbery with kidnapping for ransom and extortion. Cory cried in court as the verdict was read.

Benefit concert

DISH, one of my favorite night haunts, will change its format and convert its stage into an intimate lounge for the one-night concert of **Martin Nievera** at 9 p.m. on Jan. 31.

Dish owner **Philip Cu-Unjieng** said the stage will have only Martin, pianist and musical director **Louie Ocampo** and three backup singers.

Martin will perform in a benefit concert for the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Inc.

Dish is at the 3rd Level of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall in Makati City.

Bench and Smart have agreed to help as sponsors. Tickets are at P900, P700 and P500.

Call Dish at 898-1771 or 898-1824.

Radio show

BROADCAST practitioner **Joel Gregorio** hosts a new, 60-minute weekly show, "The Quintessential Box (The QBox)," which premiered last Jan. 13 on City Lite 88.3-FM.

The radio program which airs on Tuesdays, is about music and lifestyle. Joining Joel on Jan. 20 are guests **Jing Magsaysay**, **Ed Picson**, **Dodie Lacuna** and **Brother Wayne** for the second part of "The WK-FM Story: A Jazz Radio Retrospective."

Jan. 27, Joel will tackle about the entertainment business, with **Boy Abunda** as guest.

Feb. 3, **Plinky Recto** will talk about health and fitness with her Pilates exercises.

Industry protest

SHOW BIZ stars are encouraged to wear black on TV today to signify unity in their fight against the 10 percent value-added tax (VAT) that will be imposed on them.

"In unity, there is strength," says the text message being circulated by some stars and industry members.

Those who will participate in today's rally in front of the Senate building are also urged to wear black.

The stars will converge at the Manila Film Center at 1 p.m., then will stage their protest by walking all the way to the Senate. They are out to press for the passage of another law that will exempt them from paying the 10 percent industry VAT.

The show biz luminaries will be joined by other high income-earning professionals like doctors, lawyers, accountants and athletes.

"We need to show the government that it is time for them to stop the corruption," says another text message. "Instead of adding to our taxes, they should just improve collection."

The show biz stars will reportedly be led by ace comedian **Dolphy** and actor **Richard Gomez**.

SHORTLIST. Actresses (from left) Charlene Gonzales, Dawn Zulueta and Ara Mina being considered for the real-life role in the sensational kidnapping drama.

'Two Towers' grosses P35 million on first weekend in Manila

PETER Jackson's "Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers," grossed over P35 million during its first weekend release in Manila.

The film which earned several Golden Globe nominations, is now breaking box-office records worldwide, with over $650 million in only 21 days.

In the United States, "The Two Towers" has already overtaken "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" in the box-office race.

Darker, faster and more violent than the magnificent first installment of Peter Jackson's screen realization of "The Lord of the Rings," "The Two Towers" is at least its equal in visual and special effects magic.

No one has ever made better, more seamlessly natural-looking use of computer-generated imagery, starting with an amazing opening sequence depicting Gandalf's "death."

The world Jackson has created matches to an extraordinary degree the one described by Tolkien in the novel.

But this fidelity, broken only by the emphasis on the female elves played by Cate Blanchett and Liv Tyler, and the turning of Faramir of Gondor (David Wenham) into a quasi-villain, is also at the root of the film's occasional stiffness.

At the beginning of "The Two Towers," the Fellowship of the Ring has been split into three groups. Frodo (Elijah Wood) and Sam (Sean Astin) are still making their way to Mordor to destroy the magical One Ring which hangs increasingly heavily around Frodo's neck.

Human warrior Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen), Gimli the dwarf (John Rhys-Davies) and the blond elf Legolas (Orlando Bloom) are making their way over the mountains in pursuit of the band of Uruk-hai super-Orcs that have captured Frodo's hobbit friends Merry (Dominic Monaghan) and Pippin (Billy Boyd).

LIV Tyler as the princess Arwen

While the trio led by Aragorn enter the sad kingdom of Rohan, where King Theoden (Bernard Hill from "Titanic") has been bewitched by his councilor Wormtongue (Brad Dourif), Frodo and Sam capture Gollum, the strange creature that has been following them.

Though Sam doesn't trust Gollum at all, they get him to act as their guide to Mordor.

In many ways, Gollum is the most fascinating thing about "The Two Towers," both visually and as a character, even if he's partially computer-generated.

The filmmakers have actually made him more compelling here than in the book, fleshing out the internal conflict between his ring-inspired evil and his vestigial good self.

'Saksi' bags gold in New York festivals

"SAKSI," GMA Network's late-night news program, makes history as it becomes the first and only Philippine newscast to bag the top prize in the prestigious New York festivals.

Anchors Mike Enriquez and Vicky Morales flew to New York with news production manager Sheila Pascual-Paras and "Saksi" executive producer John Manalastas to accept the gold world medal in the awards ceremony held at the Marriott Marquis on Jan. 17.

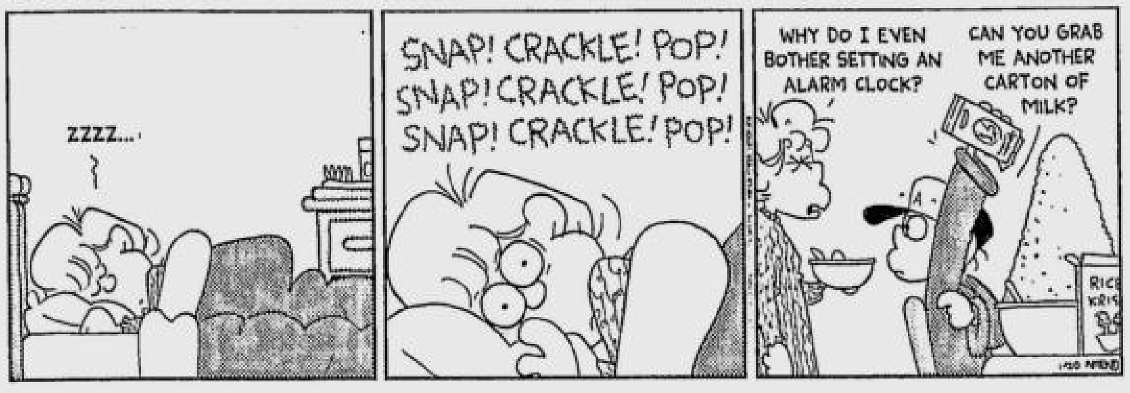
It will be recalled that "Saksi" also won as Asia's best newscast in the 2000 Asian TV awards. This latest groundbreaking achievement, another unprecedented feat in Philippine broadcast news after winning the highly coveted Peabody award in 2000, is the network's 17th medal from the New York Festivals since 1990.

MARCO AND SONS GO FILIPINO
Singer Marco Sison and his teenage sons Paolo and Mico enjoy the all-Filipino cuisine at the Pinoy Star Café of Kabayan Hotel. Kabayan, which takes pride in serving the Overseas Filipino Workers market, marked its first anniversary last Saturday. The hotel is at 2878 Zamora st., Rotonda, Pasay City, beside MRT Taft and LRT Edsa stations. Call 891-7878 to 79. Another Kabayan branch is set to open in Cubao in June.

— PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

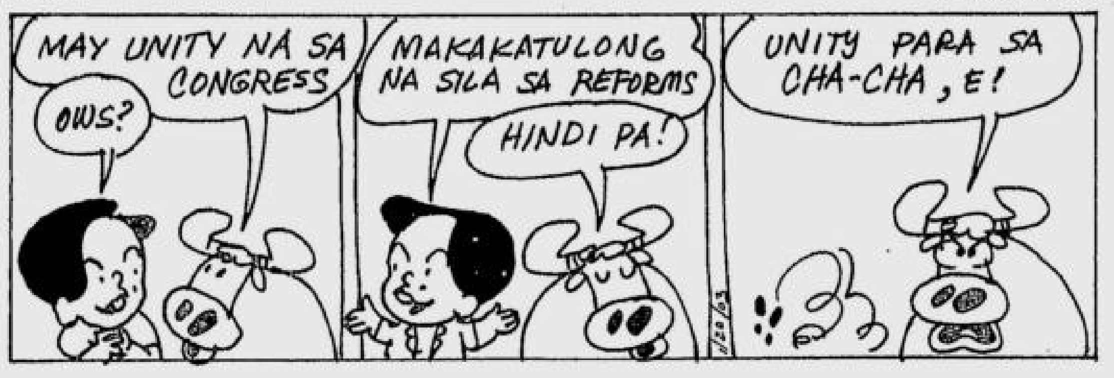
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


ZZZZ...
SNAP! CRACKLE! POP! SNAP! CRACKLE! POP! SNAP! CRACKLE! POP!
WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER SETTING AN ALARM CLOCK?
CAN YOU GRAB ME ANOTHER CARTON OF MILK?
RICE KRIS
1-20 AMEND

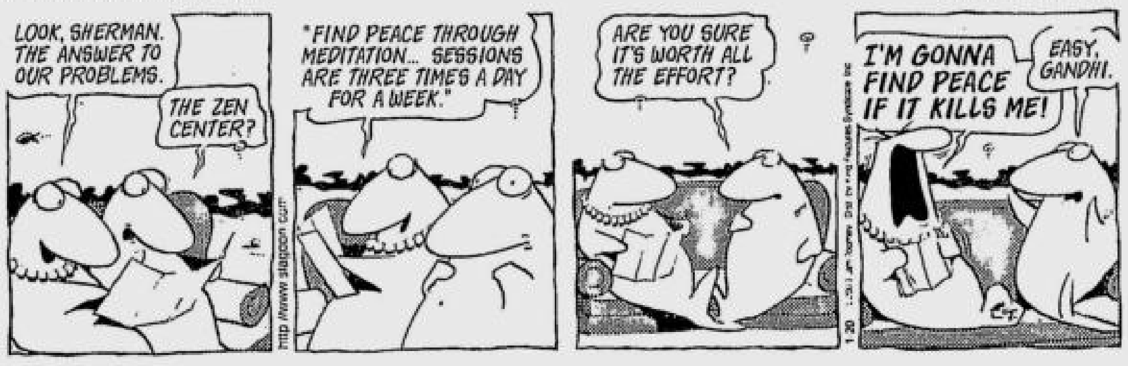
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY UNITY NA SA CONGRESS
OWS?
MAKAKATULONG NA SILA SA REFORMS
HINDI PA!
UNITY PARA SA CHA-CHA, E!
1/20/03

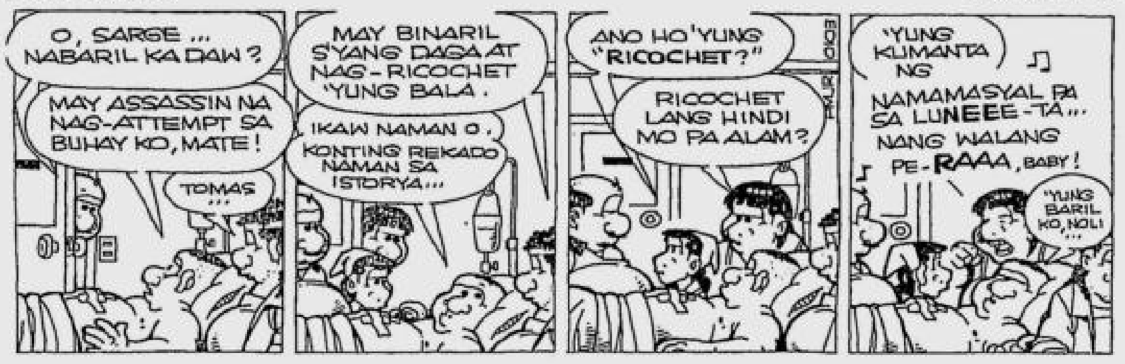
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


LOOK, SHERMAN. THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS.
THE ZEN CENTER?
"FIND PEACE THROUGH MEDITATION... SESSIONS ARE THREE TIMES A DAY FOR A WEEK."
ARE YOU SURE IT'S WORTH ALL THE EFFORT?
I'M GONNA FIND PEACE IF IT KILLS ME!
EASY, GANDHI.
http://www.slagoon.com
1-20

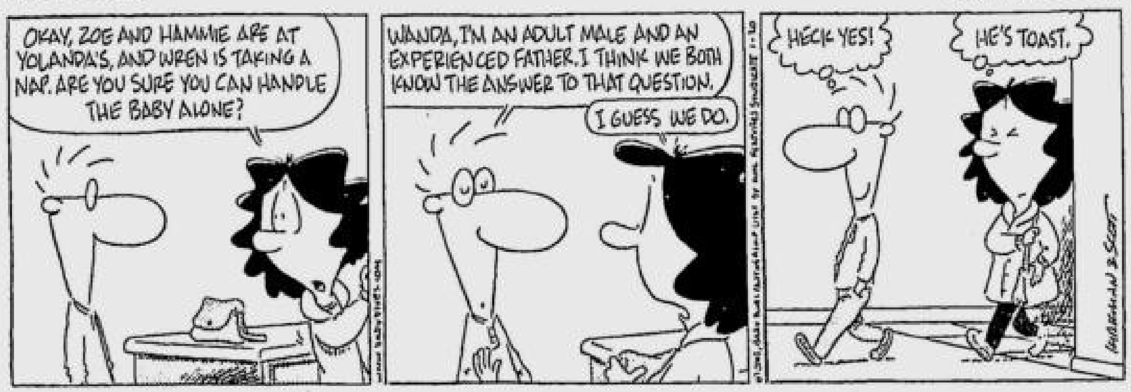
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, SARGE ... NABARIL KA DAW?
MAY ASSASSIN NA NAG-ATTEMPT SA BUHAY KO, MATE!
TOMAS ...
MAY BINARIL S'YANG DAGA AT NAG-RICOCHET 'YUNG BALA.
IKAW NAMAN O. KONTING REKADO NAMAN SA ISTORYA...
ANO HO 'YUNG "RICOCHET?"
RICOCHET LANG HINDI MO PA ALAM?
'YUNG KUMANTA NG
NAMAMASYAL PA SA LUNEEE-TA... NANG WALANG PE-RAAA, BABY!
'YUNG BARIL KO, NOLI ...

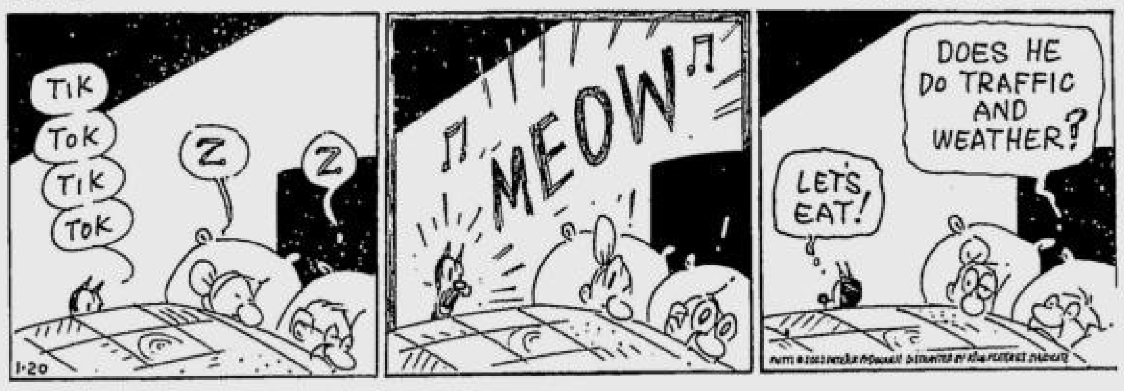
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, ZOE AND HAMMIE ARE AT YOLANDA'S, AND WREN IS TAKING A NAP. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THE BABY ALONE?
WANDA, I'M AN ADULT MALE AND AN EXPERIENCED FATHER. I THINK WE BOTH KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.
I GUESS WE DO.
HECK YES!
HE'S TOAST.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

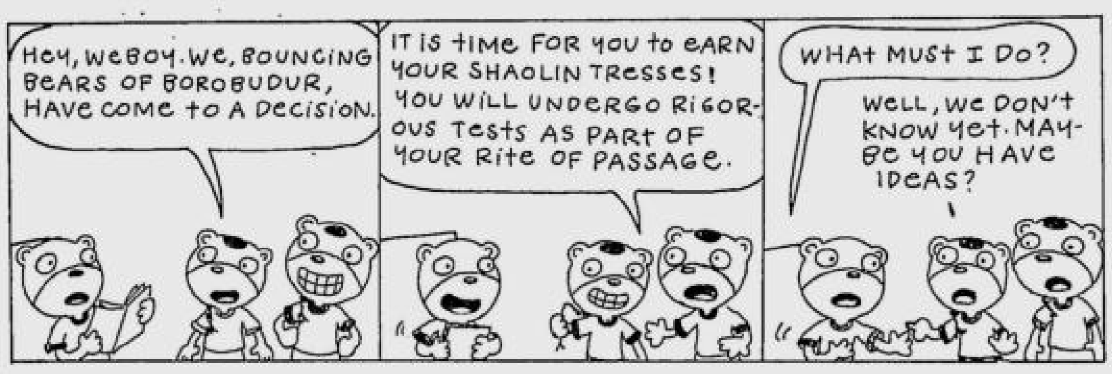
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


TIK
TOK
TIK
TOK
Z
Z
MEOW
LET'S EAT!
DOES HE DO TRAFFIC AND WEATHER?
1-20

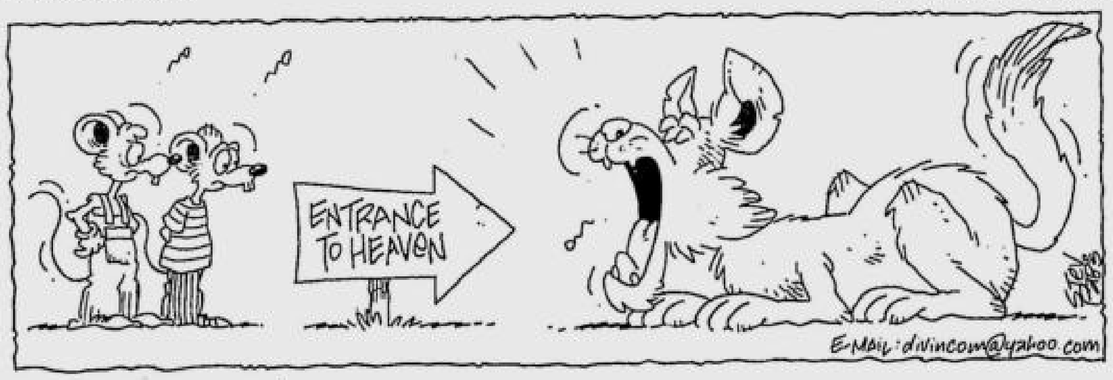
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, WEBOY. WE, BOUNCING BEARS OF BOROBUDUR, HAVE COME TO A DECISION.
IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO EARN YOUR SHAOLIN TRESSES! YOU WILL UNDERGO RIGOROUS TESTS AS PART OF YOUR RITE OF PASSAGE.
WHAT MUST I DO?
WELL, WE DON'T KNOW YET. MAYBE YOU HAVE IDEAS?

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ENTRANCE TO HEAVEN
E-MAIL: divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Lynch, George Burns, Slim Whitman, Gary Barlow

Happy Birthday: You'll be in a bit of a tailspin this year. Don't overspend. Your compassion when dealing with others will bring you great popularity, but don't let anyone take advantage of you financially or emotionally. Your efforts will bring you admirers. Your numbers are 12, 17, 23, 28, 31, 35

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't hesitate to apply for a better position. Your fast response and know-how will make this a great day to show your worth.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Romantic opportunities will be yours if you make plans to socialize. Being a participant will help you get out of the funk that you've been in lately.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Idle time will lead to a dispute with someone you care about, so get busy instead. Don't neglect your responsibilities. Changes are apparent; look to them with enthusiasm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will meet new friends or lovers through travel or educational pursuits. Don't be shy; say what's on your mind and stick to your beliefs rather than taking the opinions of others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on your professional future today. You always do best when you're the boss. A new partnership can be formed if you attend a group meeting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional ups and downs will fill your day. Don't try to fix everyone else's dilemmas. Focus on your own life and the ones who are dear to your heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have to be on your toes today if you want to keep your finances in order. Someone may try to take advantage of your generosity. Put your energy into something worthwhile.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be attracted to someone very special if you attend a charity event today. Helping those less fortunate will enhance your reputation and bring you popularity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will attract a lot of attention today, but this could lead to some problems with the people you are closest to. Tone it down a little in order to keep the peace. Honesty will play an important role today.

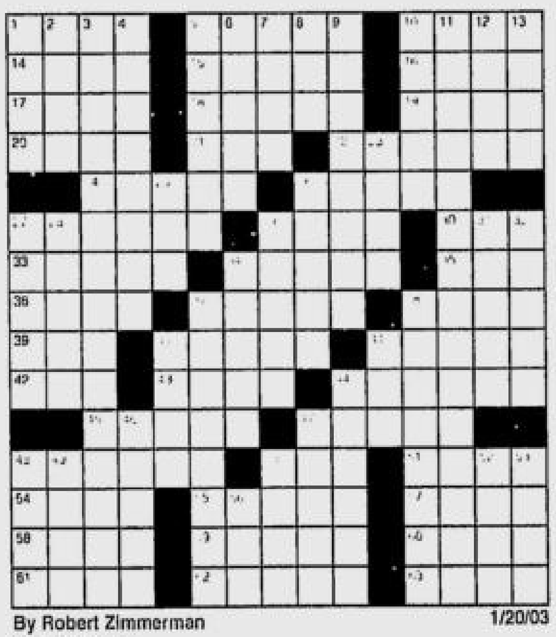
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make professional gains and acquire important information regarding business today if you attend a financial lecture. Re-establishment of a past romantic tie may throw you for a loop.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Investment deals may not be as golden as they appear. Ask questions and don't fall under pressure. Take the conservative route.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to discuss your ideas and intentions with someone who can give you sound advice. There may be a good reason for the uncertainty that you are experiencing.

Birthday Baby: You will be a handful for anyone without energy. You will be outgoing and independent. You will have a great curiosity that will lead you into many unusual situations.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

1/20/03

ACROSS
1 Old sayings
5 Persian rulers
10 "Breaker-breaker" buddy
14 Abound
15 Architectural order
16 Ray of "Battle Cry"
17 Bear of the sky
18 John __ Garner
19 Soprano Lily __
20 Quantum theorist Niels
21 Lingerie item
22 Scandinavian country
24 Cornered
26 Veranda
27 Beat
29 Pianist Hess
30 Collar
33 Lacking a guide
34 Dahomey, now
35 Pension $
36 Hilarious comedy
37 Bird droppings
38 Individuals
39 State off.
40 Chooses actors
41 City in Montana
42 112.5 degrees from S
43 Inning parts
44 Choice word
45 Downpours
47 Fairy-tale creature
48 Not long past
50 Work unit
51 Author Wister
54 Greek Cupid
55 Female vampire
57 Queen of Carthage
58 Pollster Roper
59 "Dallas" family name
60 Some linemen
61 Profound
62 To the point
63 June 6, 1944

DOWN
1 Ticket end
2 Dynamic lead-in?
3 Protest song
4 Sophisticated elite
5 One-name comic
6 White with age
7 Tolstoy's Karenina
8 __ jacet (in memoriam
9 Plot outline
10 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
11 Protest song
12 Ferber or Buchanan
13 Chipper
23 Judah's son
25 Bottom of the sea
26 Redgrave and Swann
27 Clean out
28 Labor organization
29 Venison and ham
31 Mountain ridge
32 More lowly
34 Chests
37 Knight's glove
38 Unfashionable
40 To __ a phrase
41 Life story, briefly
44 Hire
46 Man of fables
47 Beams
48 Walter __ Army Medical Center
49 __ Stanley Gardner
50 Abu Dhabi leader
52 Sturluson saga
53 Prying
56 Reverence

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	E	E	D	T	R	A	P	S	■	V	O	T	E
C	I	N	D	E	R	E	L	L	A	■	A	V	O	N
R	E	A	S	C	E	N	D	E	D	■	L	E	N	S
A	R	M	■	K	N	E	E	D	■	T	E	R	S	E
P	R	O	P	■	D	E	N	■	F	U	N	R	U	N
S	E	R	U	M	■	■	■	C	A	S	C	A	R	A
■	■	■	T	E	L	E	M	A	R	K	E	T	E	D
A	L	I	■	R	O	M	A	N	C	E	■	E	S	A
B	E	A	N	C	O	U	N	T	E	R	S	■	■	■
S	T	R	A	I	T	S	■	■	■	S	O	A	H	S
T	H	A	N	E	S	■	B	E	G	■	S	L	A	T
R	A	V	E	S	■	L	E	V	E	L	■	S	I	R
A	L	I	T	■	R	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E
C	L	O	T	■	O	V	E	R	R	E	A	C	T	S
T	Y	N	E	■	B	I	T	T	E	R	N	E	S	S

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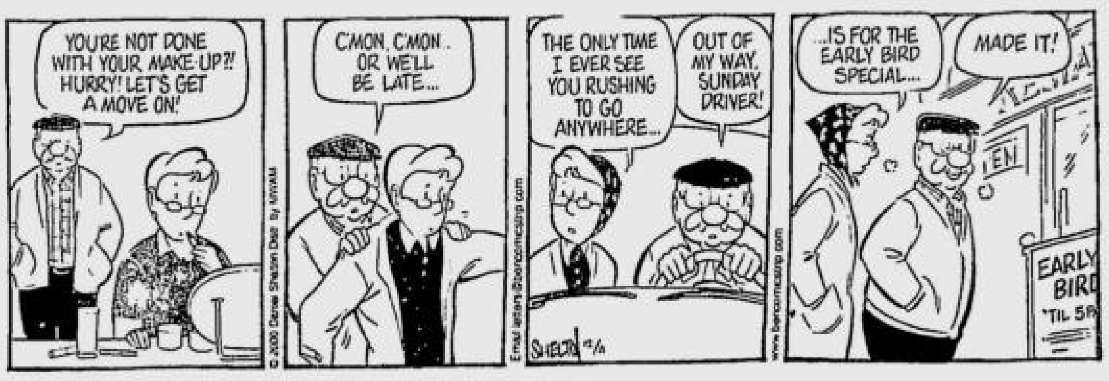
1/20/03

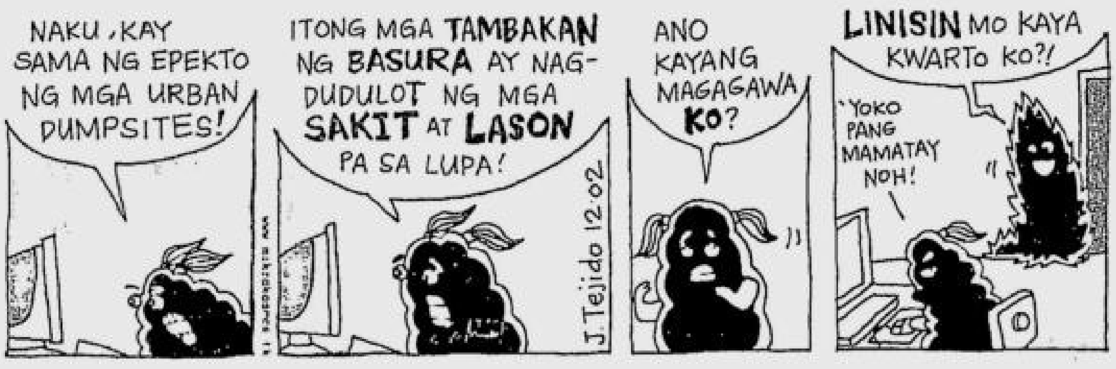
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'RE NOT DONE WITH YOUR MAKE-UP?! HURRY! LET'S GET A MOVE ON!
C'MON, C'MON.. OR WE'LL BE LATE...
THE ONLY TIME I EVER SEE YOU RUSHING TO GO ANYWHERE...
OUT OF MY WAY, SUNDAY DRIVER!
...IS FOR THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL...
MADE IT!
EARLY BIRD 'TIL 5P
www.bencomicstrip.com

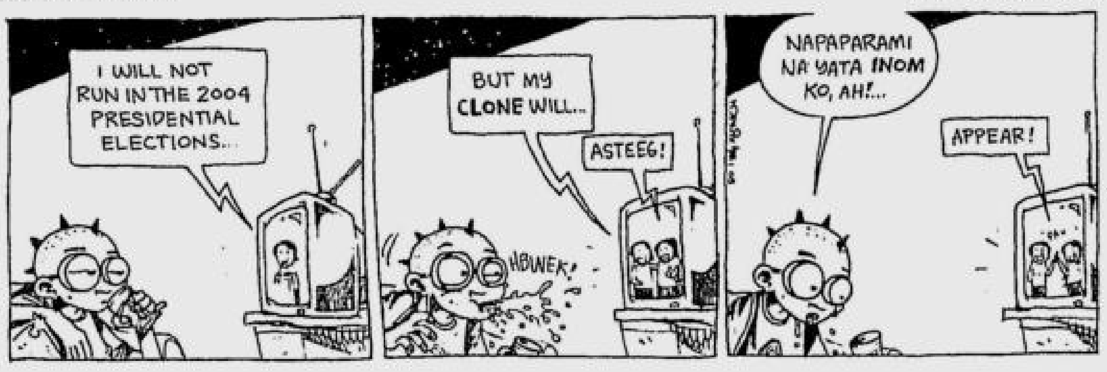
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU, KAY SAMA NG EPEKTO NG MGA URBAN DUMPSITES!
ITONG MGA TAMBAKAN NG BASURA AY NAG-DUDULOT NG MGA SAKIT AT LASON PA SA LUPA!
ANO KAYANG MAGAGAWA KO?
LINISIN MO KAYA KWARTO KO?!
'YOKO PANG MAMATAY NOH!
J. Tejido 12.02

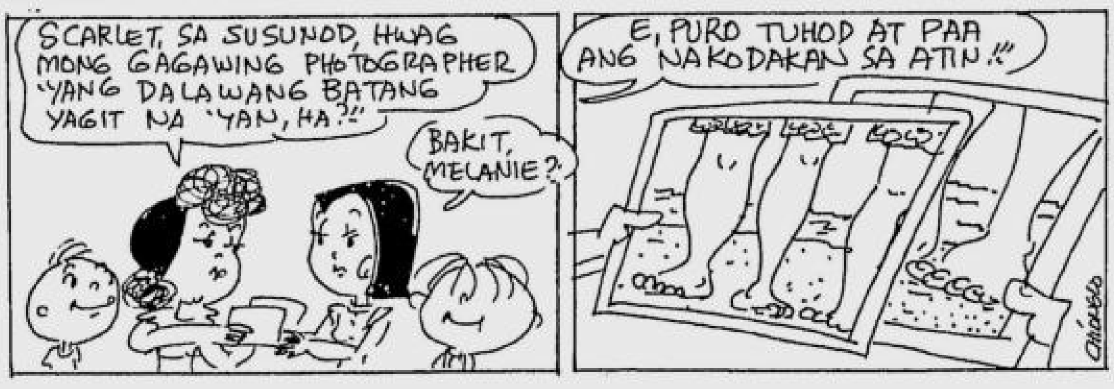
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


I WILL NOT RUN IN THE 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS...
BUT MY CLONE WILL...
ASTEEG!
HBWEK!
NAPAPARAMI NA YATA INOM KO, AH!...
APPEAR!

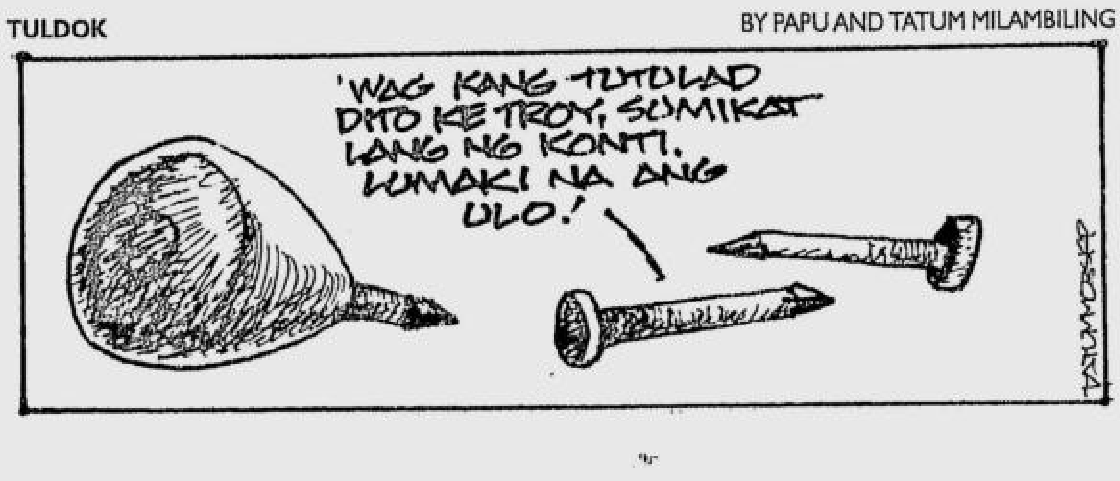
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, SA SUSUNOD, HWAG MONG GAGAWING PHOTOGRAPHER 'YANG DALAWANG BATANG YAGIT NA 'YAN, HA?!
BAKIT, MELANIE?
E, PURO TUHOD AT PAA ANG NAKODAKAN SA ATIN!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KANG TUTULAD DITO KE TROY, SUMIKAT LANG NG KONTI, LUMAKI NA ANG ULO!

For sreening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

ALL DIGITAL SOUND CINEMAS

G1 GLORIETTA 1
RING (ORIG. JAPAN) / THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
2 HALF PAST DEAD
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
4 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
2 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:20, 4:00, 11:20
4 HALF PAST DEAD
5 HEAVEN
6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
7 RING (ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION)

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 RING (ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION)
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
JOSE MARI CHAN - HEART OF A SONG WRITER Jan. 17 - 18 / 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:10, 3:40, 7:10, 10:40
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:50, 4:20, 7:50, 11:20
4 HALF PAST DEAD 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20
THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
4 HALF PAST DEAD
THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333
Or log on to www.sureseats.com
*GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
2 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS) MANO PO
4 GOLD (DTS ES) HEAVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) LORD OF THE RING
6 GOLD (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) HALF PAST DEAD
8 LASTIKMAN
9 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
10 THE RING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 LASTIKMAN
2 BANGKERO
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 LORD OF THE RING
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 BANGKERO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LASTIKMAN
3 BANGKERO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LORD OF THE RING
5 KERIDA

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 KERIDA
2 LASTIKMAN
3 BANGKERO
4 LORD OF THE RING
5 THE RING
6 HALF PAST DEAD

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 AGIMAT

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
LORD OF THE RING

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MANO PO
2 LASTIKMAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 KERIDA
3 BANGKERO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LASTIKMAN
3 BANGKERO
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING
4 THE RING
5 MANO PO
6 BANGKERO
7 (DTS) HEAVEN
8 (SDDS) HALF PAST DEAD
9 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 KERIDA
2 LASTIKMAN
3 BANGKERO
4 (SDDS) HALF PAST DEAD
5 THE RING
6 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
7 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING
8 MANO PO
9 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 BANGKERO
2 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS) THE RING
4 (DOLBY) HALF PAST DEAD
5 KERIDA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 BANGKERO
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING
4 KERIDA
5 (SDDS) THE RING

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BANGKERO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 BANGKERO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson KERIDA
Lords BANGKERO
Jennet RESERVE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LORD OF THE RING
3 BANGKERO
4 LASTIKMAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
2 BANGKERO
3 THE RING
4 HALF PAST DEAD
5 KERIDA

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 DEKADA '70
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BANGKERO
2 HULA MO HULI KO

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400
1 LASTIKMAN
2 KERIDA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) HALF PAST DEAD
4 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RINGS 2
5 (DTS) LORD OF THE RINGS 2
6 HEAVEN
7 MANO PO

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LORD OF THE RINGS 2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 , 534.2198
1 KERIDA
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE RING
2 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING
3 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
4 HALF PAST DEAD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
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2 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS) HALF PAST DEAD
4 LASTIKMAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 LIKE MIKE
2 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
3 (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 LASTIMAN
2 KERIDA
3 (DOLBY) LONG TIME DEAD
4 (DTS) SWIM FAN

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) LONG TIME DEAD
2 (DTS) LASTIKMAN
3 KERIDA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
2 BANGKERO
3 (DTS) THE RING
4 HALF PAST DEAD

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 (DTS) LASTIKMAN
4 THE RING
5 MALDITA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 LORD OF THE RING
2 THE RINGF
3 KERIDA

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 LORD OF THE RING
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 THE RING

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(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
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2 LAPU LAPU
3 (DTS) MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4 (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
2 LASTIKMAN
3 MASARAP NA PUGAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LASTIKMAN
2 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
3 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4 LONG TIME DEAD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LORD OF THE RING
2 LASTIKMAN
3 (DTS ES) THE RING
4 HALF PAST DEAD

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 322-3571
1 LASTIKMAN
2 LORD OF THE RING
3 (DOLBY) HALF PAST DEAD
4 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING

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Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
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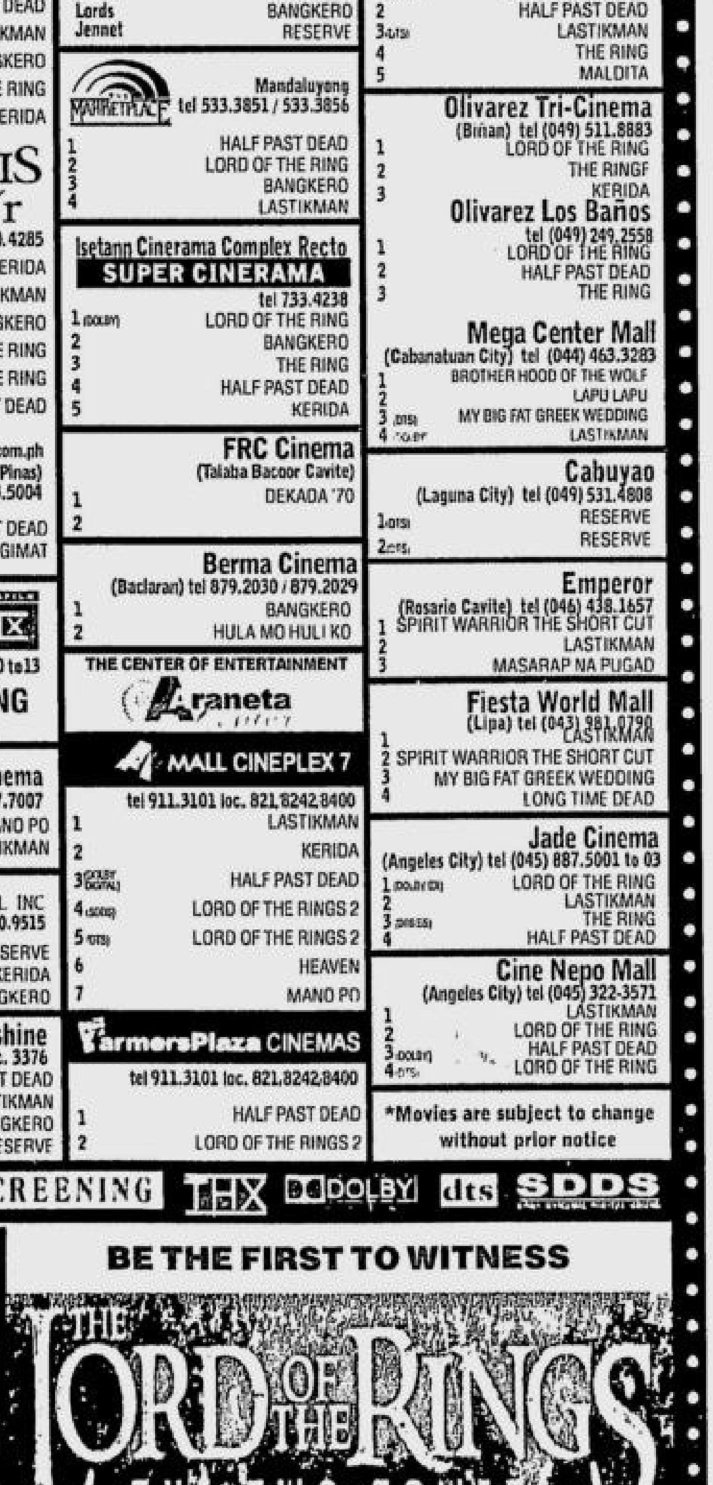
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS

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SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
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1 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4 LASTIKMAN
5 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
6 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
7 BANGKERO
8 MANO PO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149622 -7161416
1 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2 HEAVEN
3 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
4 BANGKERO
5 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
6 LASTIKMAN
7 HALF PAST DEAD
8 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
9 MANO PO
10 KERIDA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 HEAVEN
2 DEKADA '70
3 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6 LASTIKMAN
7 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
8 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
9 HALF PAST DEAD
10 KERIDA
11 BANGKERO
12 MANO PO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
2 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
3 HEAVEN
4 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
7 BANGKERO
8 LASTIKMAN
9 RING (JAPANESE)
10 RING (JAPANESE)
11 MANO PO
12 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6 HEAVEN
7 MANO PO
8 KERIDA
9 LASTIKMAN
10 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
11 RING (JAPANESE)
12 BANGKERO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 LASTIKMAN
2 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
3 CLOSED
4 RING (JAPANESE)
5 HEAVEN
6 HALF PAST DEAD
7 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
8 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 HEAVEN
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4 LASTIKMAN
5 BANGKERO
6 KERIDA
7 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
8 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
9 MANO PO
10 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 REPLI-KATE
4 LIKE MIKE
5 LASTIKMAN
6 UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE
7 MANO PO
8 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 VAMPS
2 CLOSED
3 SWIMFAN
4 MANO PO
5 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
6 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
7 CLOSED
8 LASTIKMAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
3 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 LASTIKMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
3 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2 BANGKERO
3 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
4 LASTIKMAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2 SWIMFAN
3 MANO PO
4 GISING NA SI ADAN
5 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM BICUTAN
776-3055
1 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
4 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884
1 THE RING
2 LIKE MIKE
3 REPLI-KATE
4 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-0976

1 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD VERSION)
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2 LORD OF THE RINGS: The Two Towers
11:30 FS/12:00 MF/3:40/7:20/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/2:10 END

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4 LORD OF THE RINGS II
5 THE RING US VERSION
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II
7 RING JAPANESE VERSION
8 HALF PAST DEAD
9 DEKADA '70
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Ermita
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2 THE RING US VERSION
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4 RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II
7 LORD OF THE RINGS II

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280
1 HEAVEN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS II
3 LORD OF THE RINGS II
4 THE RING US VERSION
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II
7 LORD OF THE RINGS II
8 LASTIKMAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30
1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 LORD OF THE RINGS II
3 LASTIKMAN
4 HEAVEN
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 MANO PO
7 THE RING US VERSION
8 SPIRIT WARRIORS

Malabon Citisquare
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1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 LORD OF THE RINGS II
3 HALF PAST DEAD
4 LASTIKMAN

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
3 THE RING US VERSION
4 LASTIKMAN
5 LORD OF THE RINGS II
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 LASTIKMAN
3 LORD OF THE RINGS II
4 HALF PAST DEAD
5 BANGKERO
6 THE RING US VERSION

Sta. Rosa Laguna
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LORD OF THE RINGS II
3 THE RING US VERSION
4 MANO PO
5 LASTIKMAN

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
1 THE RING US VERSION
2 REPLI-KATE
3 MANO PO
4 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
5 HULA MO HULI KO
6 DOUBLE SEDUCTION

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78
1 THE RING US VERSION
2 SWIMFAN
3 VAMPS
4 LASTIKMAN
5 BROTHERHOOD OF WOLF
6 MANO PO

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Make way for new diva in local music

IN A music industry teeming with divas of all shapes and sizes, one would think there's no room left for anyone new. That might hold true for some, but once you hear the soaring voice of Sari, you will definitely make room for her.

Late last year, Xax Music came out with the maxi-single of a talented, unassuming young lady who conquered the airwaves with her carrier single, "Flowin."

Now, Sari is back with a self-titled debut album featuring 11 cuts of pop R & B music.

Sari may be small and petite, yet she could sing with the best in the industry. Like most singing sensations, this 24-year-old performer came from humble beginnings. She had her share of wins in amateur singing contests, including a stint in "Tanghalan ng Kampeon" when she was 12.

Sari's high school education was even funded by a grand prize she won in an inter-province singing competition.

After college, she further honed her craft by touring Asia as lead singer of noted show bands.

Sari is all set to win the hearts of music-loving Filipinos with her first album, which has a little bit of everything.

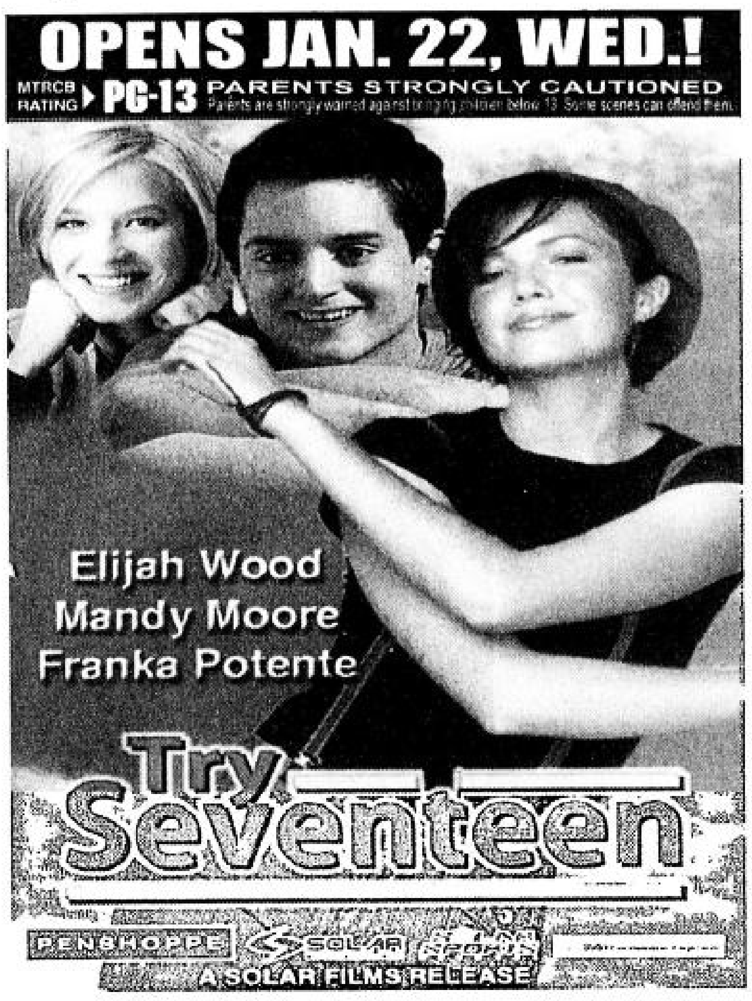
Lovers will definitely soar with the stirring notes of her carrier single, "Lumipad."

Sentimentals will fall for her version of America's '70s hit "All My Life" and her acoustic ballad, "You Are."

Other songs are soul-inspired like "Kailan Man" and "Bakit." Sari also carries out dance tracks with the grooves of "Fallin" and "Araw-Araw Miss Kita." She also inspires with her beautiful piece, "Dapat."

"Sari," the album is now available in CDs and cassettes in all leading record outlets nationwide.

SARI. All set to soar with her debut album.

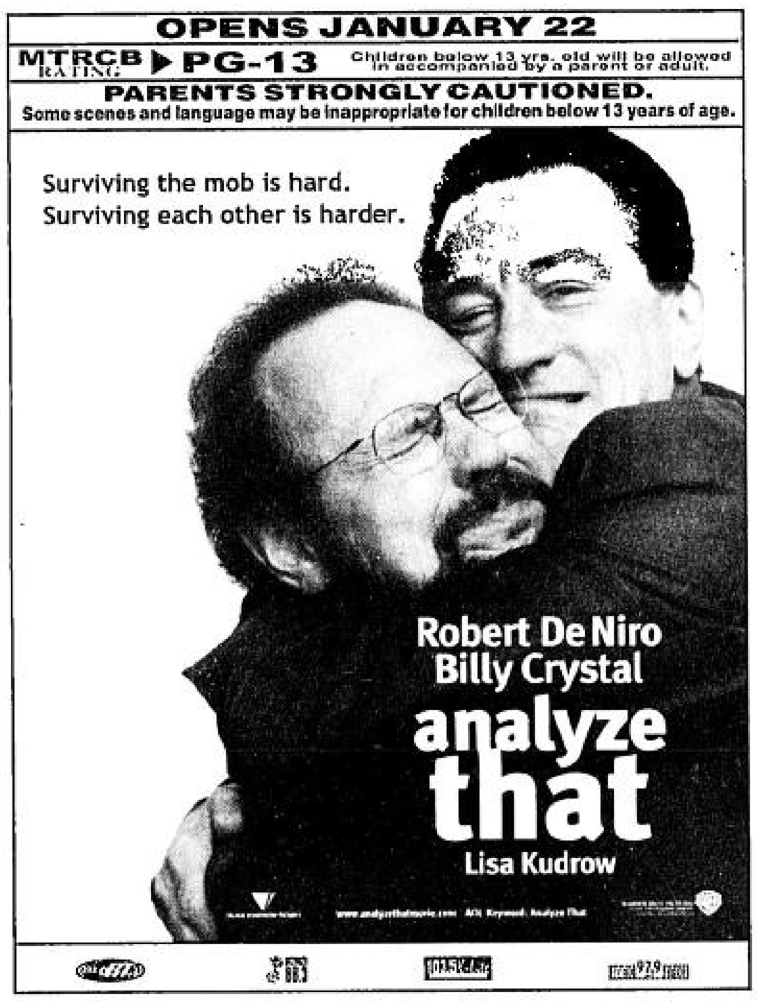

OPENS JAN. 22, WED.!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Parents are strongly warned against bringing children below 13. Some scenes can offend them.
Elijah Wood
Mandy Moore
Franka Potente
Try Seventeen
PENSHOPPE
SOLAR
A SOLAR FILMS RELEASE

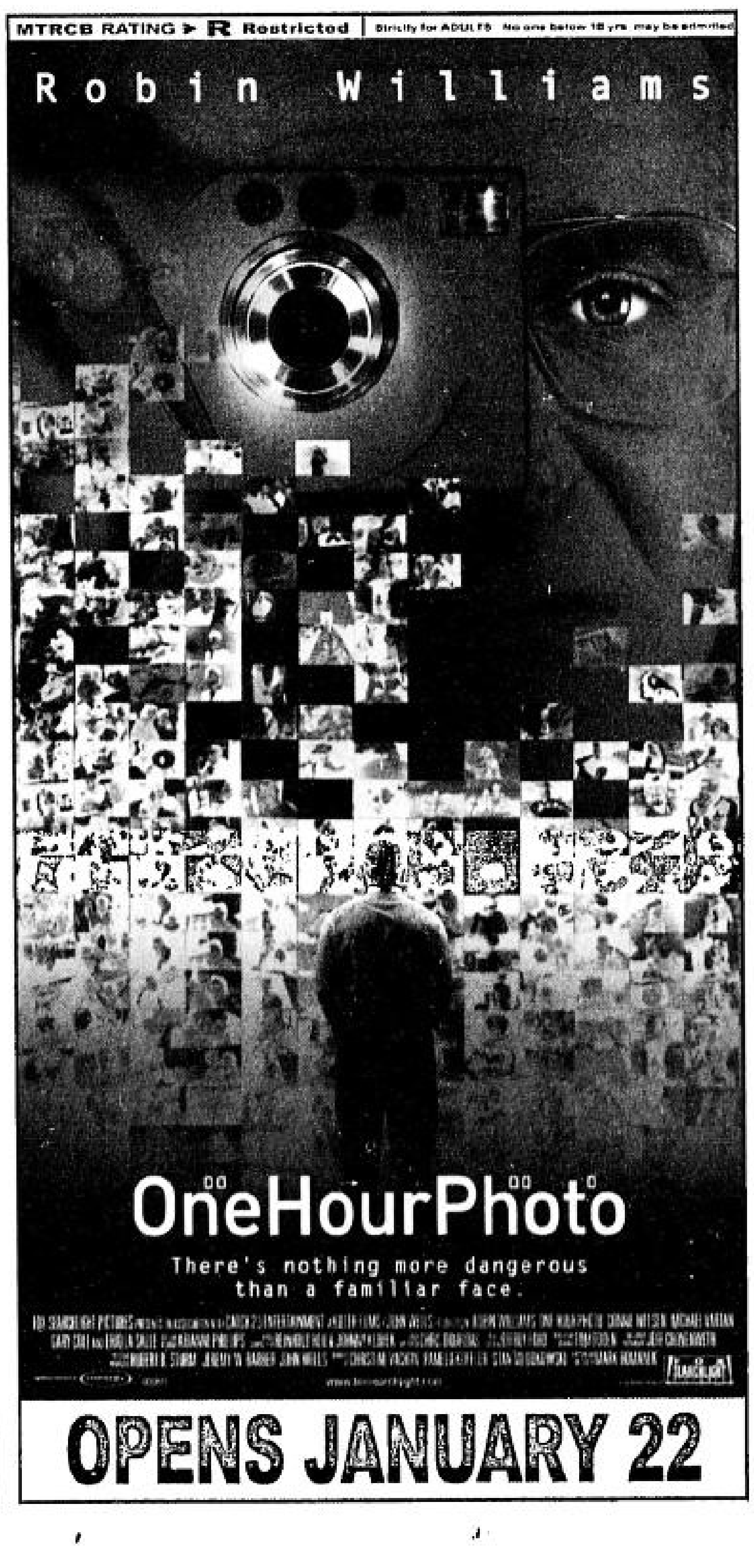
Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	LASTIKMAN
Ali 2	KERIDA
Ali 3	HALF PAST DEAD
Ali 4	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 5	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 6	HEAVEN
Ali 7	MANO PO
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	HALF PAST DEAD
Farmers 2	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
ARANETA COLISEUM	
JAN 20, 22, 24	WORLD SLASHER CUP 2003
FEB 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE
ELEPHANT WORLD	
JAN. 21	10 AM / 3 PM
JAN. 22	10 AM / 3 PM
JAN 23	3 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

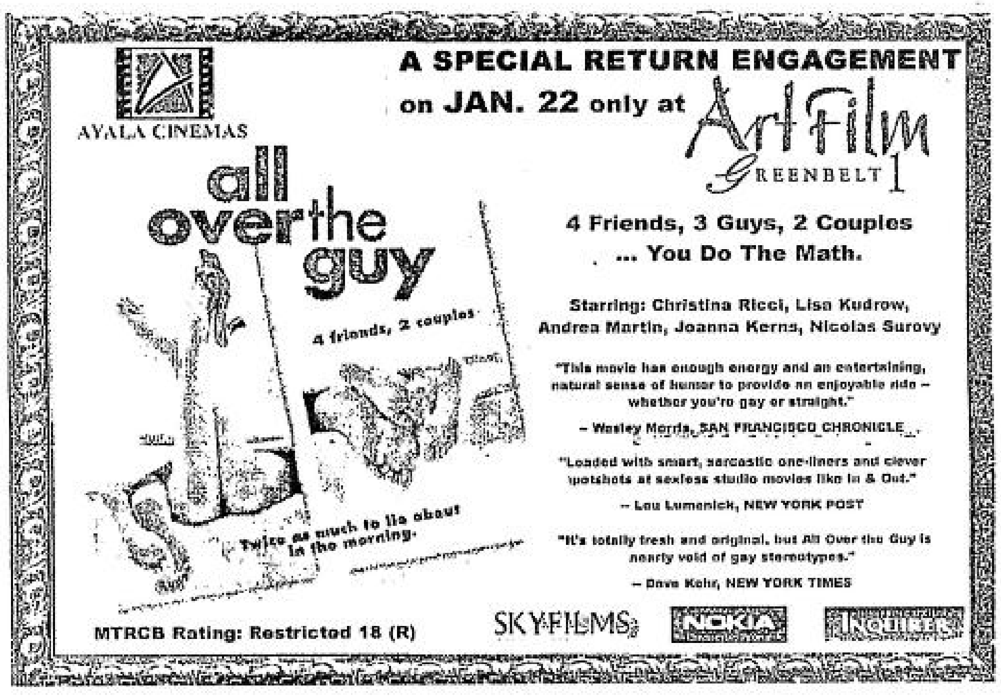
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BAHID / LET'S TALK SEX
ODEON	HALF PAST DEAD
ODEON-2	MASARAP NA PUGAD / KALARO
ROBEN	BANGKERO
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	TRIPLE X / SPIDER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BANGKERO
CORONET B	BRAZEN WOMEN / BALLISTIC
QUEZON-1	KERIDA
REMAR	HALF PAST DEAD
REMAR-2	KERIDA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
B	HULA MO, HULI KO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HALF PAST DEAD
CINEMA-2	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BANGKERO
CINEMA-2	KERIDA
CINEMA-3	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-6	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-7	DEKADA '70
CINEMA-8	MANO PO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-12	HALF PAST DEAD
CINEMA-14	HEAVEN
CINEMA-15	RING
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

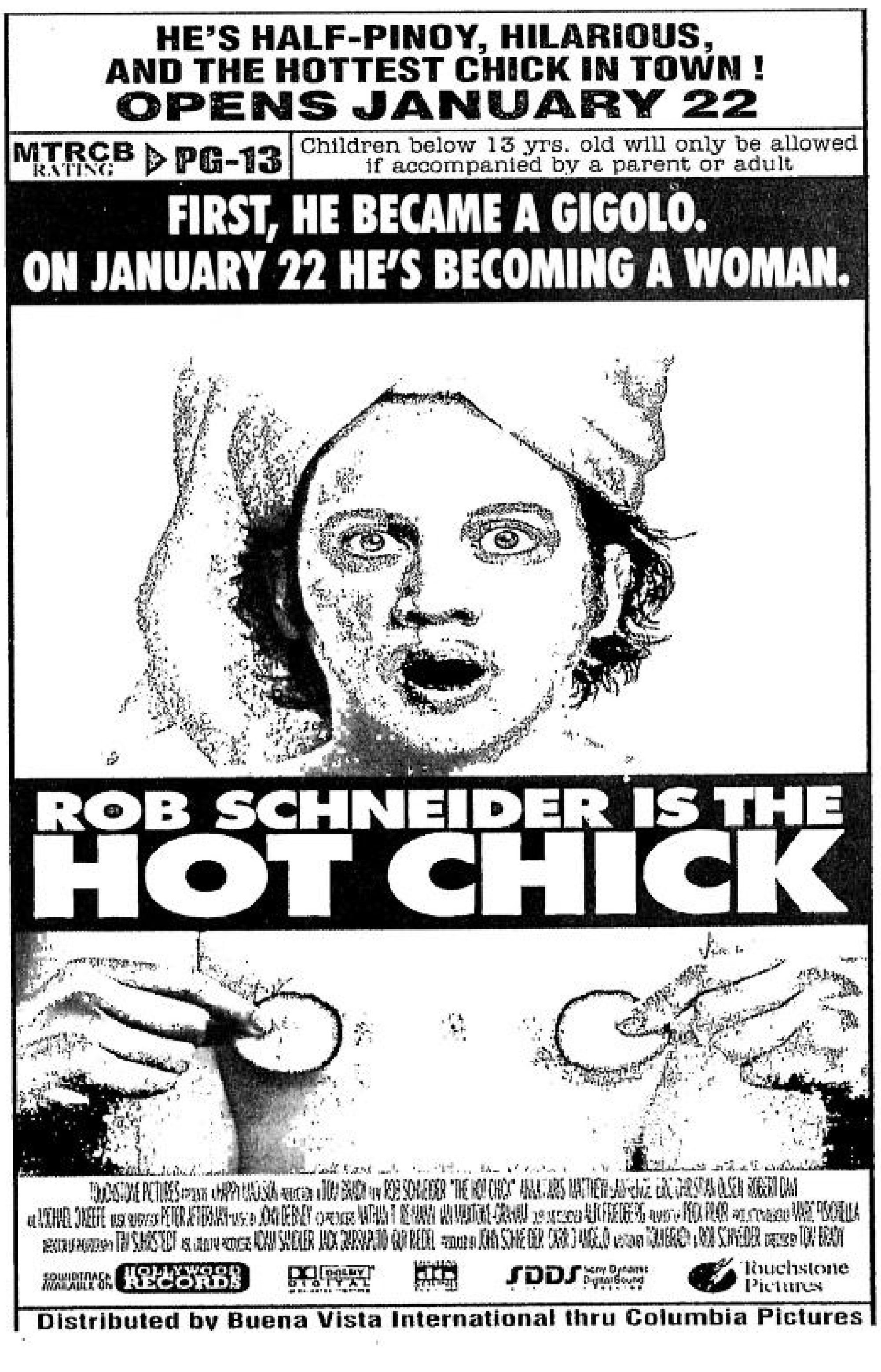

OPENS JANUARY 22
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED.
Some scenes and language may be inappropriate for children below 13 years of age.
Surviving the mob is hard.
Surviving each other is harder.
Robert De Niro
Billy Crystal
analyze that
Lisa Kudrow
www.analyzethatmovie.com AOL Keyword: Analyze That


MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
Robin Williams
One Hour Photo
There's nothing more dangerous than a familiar face.
OPENS JANUARY 22

FREE TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS
WIN A FREE TRIP FOR TWO TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS WHEN YOU WATCH
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
EXPLORE THE WORLD OF MIDDLE EARTH
A JOURNEY TO NEW ZEALAND
SEE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS FOR MORE DETAILS.
Promo runs from Jan 11 to Feb 9, 2003.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0102, Series of 2003.
Special Thanks to:
PIONEER MANILA BULLETIN BUFFALO

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JAN. 29 only at
ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.
It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.
Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil
OFF KEY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER


AYALA CINEMAS
A SPECIAL RETURN ENGAGEMENT
on JAN. 22 only at ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
all over the guy
4 friends, 2 couples
Twice as much to lie about in the morning.
4 Friends, 3 Guys, 2 Couples
... You Do The Math.
Starring: Christina Ricci, Lisa Kudrow, Andrea Martin, Joanna Kerns, Nicolas Surovy
"This movie has enough energy and an entertaining, natural sense of humor to provide an enjoyable ride – whether you're gay or straight."
– Wesley Morris, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
"Loaded with smart, sarcastic one-liners and clever potshots at sexless studio movies like In & Out."
– Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST
"It's totally fresh and original, but All Over the Guy is nearly void of gay stereotypes."
– Dave Kehr, NEW YORK TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER


HE'S HALF-PINOY, HILARIOUS, AND THE HOTTEST CHICK IN TOWN !
OPENS JANUARY 22
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FIRST, HE BECAME A GIGOLO.
ON JANUARY 22 HE'S BECOMING A WOMAN.
ROB SCHNEIDER IS THE HOT CHICK
SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON HOLLYWOOD RECORDS
SDDS Sony Dynamic Digital Sound
Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

E-mail: pr entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

REVIEW

'HERO'

Flying Snow, Broken Sword; artsy violence, major goosebumps

The plot, script, acting, action sequences and production aspects add new meaning to the phrase 'big screen bonanza'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THIS IS one of those times I'm privileged to watch a film weeks before its regular showing. I have been looking forward to the press screening of the action-adventure epic "Hero" since I saw its stunning trailer only days before.

Not that I didn't bring any skepticism with me. I was one of the few people who thought "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" was just an okay movie with extraordinary fight scenes.

As it turns out, that film's producer, Bill Kong, is also involved in "Hero." He's joined by director/co-writer Zhang Yimou and a powerhouse cast of six Asian actors in this legend of China's pre-imperial era.

The Warring States Period, as the name implies, is when China's seven kingdoms were involved in terrible conflicts with each other 2000 years ago. The King of Qin (Chen Daoming) sought to unify the land with his massive armies, intimidating enemy states with his merciless might. This earned him the ire of three very powerful assassins, Sky (Donnie Yen), Broken Sword (Tony Leung) and Flying Snow (Maggie Cheung).

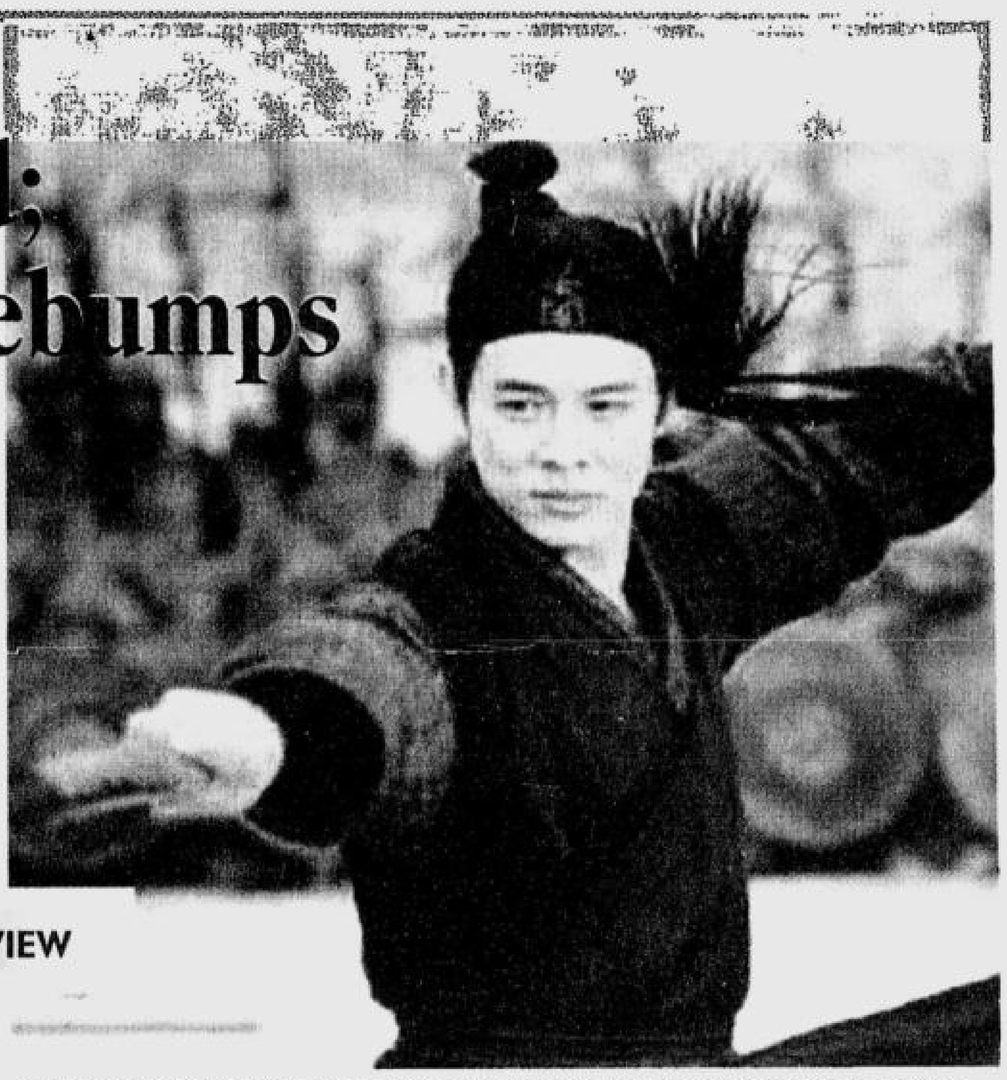
Only the mysterious county sheriff, Nameless (Jet Li), stands between them and the King of Qin.

It's hard to describe how good "Hero" is because there are dozens of adjectives swimming in my head that still can't fully define it. The plot, the script, the acting, the action sequences, the production aspects, all awe-inspiring. It adds new meaning to the phrase "big screen bonanza."

Distorted physics

The fight scenes are very lyrical and rife with strength and grace. This isn't your Sunday morning martial arts fest. Well, it's probably that, too, but magnified and improved dozens of times over.

We've been introduced to these wired kung-fu stunts long before Hollywood fell in love with "Crouching Tiger," so it's interesting to see action flicks like these make waves in the international scene.



AWESOME. Lyrical fight scenes and other virtues make "Hero," starring Jet Li, more than just a martial arts fest.

When we see Broken Sword's servant Moon (the always-spirited Zhang Ziyi) chase Flying Snow above towering trees, or other characters running and bouncing off a pond, we just take it in gladly.

The stories have a larger-than-life feel to them, the distortion of physics just one of the devices that make the barrage of kicks and sword-swipes all the more intense.

Obsessive visuals can also render one cold with anticipation (not as cold as the Galleria theater where it was screened, though), like when we see hundreds of foot soldiers armed with crossbows release their thick swarm of arrows. When flashbacks within flashbacks are told, they aren't confusing since every story has a corresponding color scheme. Curtains and robes are in uniform green, for instance, when one separate story unfolds.

Enthralling

With a killer cast like this, you can't go wrong. Everyone's charismatic, even the spiteful King. Jet Li is wonderful as the storyteller, coming across as more than just the usual, super-skilled action star.

But what's more revealing is the Maggie Cheung-Tony Leung tandem of Flying Snow and Broken Sword. To see them kick serious booty as lovers here in "Hero" is, in a word, enthralling.

They were brilliant as the neighbors with cheating spouses in Wong Kar-Wai's "In the Mood for Love." It's like their clever casting is a reward for people who rooted for them in that sad but beautiful movie. And to see them as agile, blade-wielding partners in this other beautiful movie is very enjoyable.

The message of honor and sacrifice doesn't get lost in the flurry of fracases, nor does it seem forced when it becomes clear why the movie is called "Hero."

It feels so good to see a movie without annoying braggadocio. It may use artsy violence to prove a point or motivation, but it's definitely focused storytelling. And for the price of a regular ticket, you get all that, and major goosebumps, too.

Humor, good cheer, suspense at this year's Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES—The Golden Globes awards have long been known for humor, good cheer and a bubbly celebrity audience, but this year's ceremony has got something else—suspense.

Nobody is comfortably predicting what will happen on Sunday (Monday morning in Manila) when Hollywood's awards season kicks into high gear at the 60th Annual Golden Globe Awards.

Can "Gangs of New York" rub out a trio of powerhouse leading ladies, Nicole Kidman Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore in "The Hours" for best dramatic film?"

Will "Chicago" dazzle the pants off Hugh Grant's "About a Boy" or will that job be left to "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" in the best musical or comedy category?

Jack's sixth?

And if Jack Nicholson wins his sixth Golden Globe award for "About Schmidt," just what the heck is Jack going to do or say?

Or maybe Hollywood unknown Adrien Brody will score a major upset by winning the best dramatic actor for "The Pianist." Nobody knows.

The awards, voted on by the about 90 members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, are an annual barometer of films that will likely compete for Oscars, the top US film honors from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Each year, the Globes help narrow the list of top films and 2002 has proved to be a very strong year thanks to a bumper crop of holiday films. So, the spotlight is more than ever on the Globes.

Along with film honors, the Globes also reward TV shows and can help launch a career, such as it did for Calista Flockhart with her 1990s hit show "Ally McBeal."

There will be plenty of celebrities to look at, too, in the top movie categories. Along with Kidman and Streep, nominated in the best dramatic actress category for "The Hours," will be Salma Hayek for her work in "Frida," Diane Lane for "Unfaithful" and Julianne Moore in "Far From Heaven."

Top honors

The category is too close to call, industry watchers say, with Kidman, Streep and Moore all vying for top honors and Lane and Hayek only inches behind.

In the best dramatic actor group, Nicholson appears to be the frontrunner for "About Schmidt," but Daniel Day Lewis's "Bill the Butcher" character in "Gangs" may just cut him to shreds.

Brody in "The Pianist" and Michael Caine in "Quiet American" are also too close for comfort, and Leonardo Di Caprio in "Catch Me If You Can" is a real crowd pleaser.

The night's top honor will go to best film drama and there, "Gangs," "Hours," "Schmidt" and "The Pianist" are all top-flight movies.

Fifth nominee "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" is also no slouch.

The Golden Globes also group movies in best musical or comedy, and in that category, "Chicago" appears to be the show stopper with eight nominations, but "Greek Wedding" has shared its own brand of razzle dazzle with audiences this year, which could lead to Golden Globe success.

Late entry

And award watchers say don't count out "About a Boy." Despite the fact it was released in the spring, it has landed on many critics' top 10 lists.

Fourth nominee "Adaptation" is not really a comedy and "Nicholas Nickleby" was too late an entry to really make noise.

"Chicago's" Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones will compete head-on with "Greek Wedding's" star and creator Nia Vardalos for best actress in a musical or comedy. They are joined by Goldie Hawn in "The Banger Sisters" and newcomer Maggie Gyllenhaal for "Secretary."

In the best comedic actor group, "Chicago" star Richard Gere looks to tap dance his way around Grant in "About a Boy," as he squares off against Nicolas Cage in "Adaptation" and Adam Sandler for "Punch-Drunk Love." Newcomer Kieran Culkin for "Igby Goes Down" was a surprise nominee in the group.

Finally, among directors, where there are normally just five nominees per category, this year the pick proved difficult enough to name five: Stephen Daldry for "The Hours," Peter Jackson for "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," Spike Jonze for "Adaptation," Rob Marshall for "Chicago," Alexander Payne in "About Schmidt" and Scorsese for "Gangs."

The Golden Globes will air on NBC at 7 p.m. Sunday night (EST—7 a.m. Monday in Manila).

Reuters

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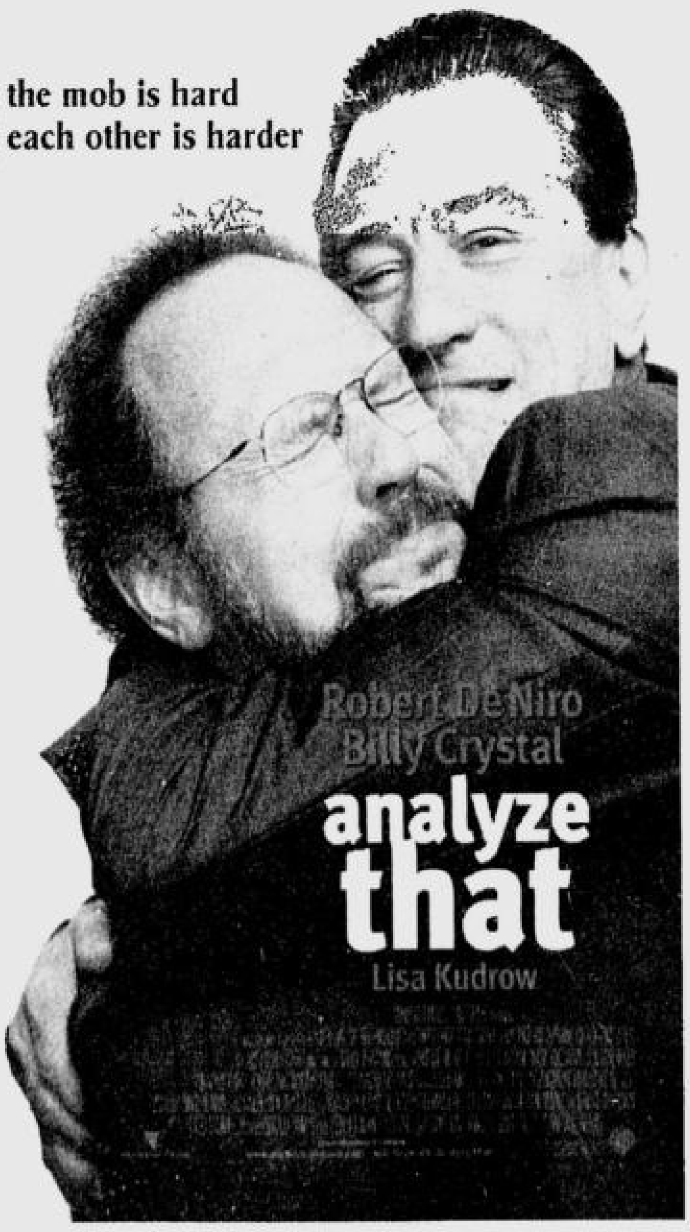

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MONDAY,
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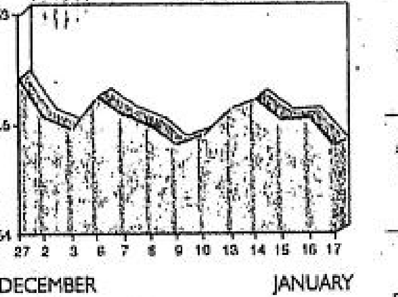

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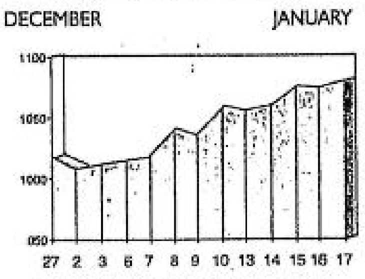
STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to rise

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE LOCAL stock market is seen to continue trading on an upbeat mood this week on selective buying of blue chips by bargain hunters.

This developed as the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained another 2.2 percent last week to close at 1,081.60 on Friday.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief market strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the continuing optimism in the market was brought by the enactment of two major structural reforms—the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle Law and the Procurement Law.

STOCKS/ B4

Gov't widens scope of tax ruling on professionals

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has directed the Bureau of Internal Revenue to prepare a draft regulation that would impose a 20-percent withholding tax on other professionals like lawyers, doctors, accountants and engineers.

"We are considering increasing the withholding tax rate on other professionals not covered by the 2001 regulation. The entertainers made a good point that the tax burden should be equal among professionals and those receiving talent fees," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

Entertainers, lawyers, and doctors are scheduled to hold a protest rally at the Senate today against the BIR regulation requiring professionals to start paying the 10-percent value-added tax. The five-year exemption of professionals and banks from the 10-percent VAT ended in 2002 and no new law to extend the moratorium was passed by Congress.

The finance chief said he had asked Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno to study the merits of increasing from 10 percent the creditable withholding tax rate on other professionals.

A withholding tax deducted in advance from an individual is eventually subtracted from the final obligation that a taxpayer remits to the government during tax payment season.

Professionals likely to be covered by the planned 100-percent increase in the withholding tax rate to 20 percent are lawyers, certified public accountants, doctors of medicine, architects, engineers, marine surveyors, doctors of veterinary science, dentists, professional appraisers, connoisseurs of tobacco, and interior decorators.

These professionals were not covered by the 2001 regulation that entertainers and athletes claimed was biased. The regulation exempted those earning P720,000 or below in a year.

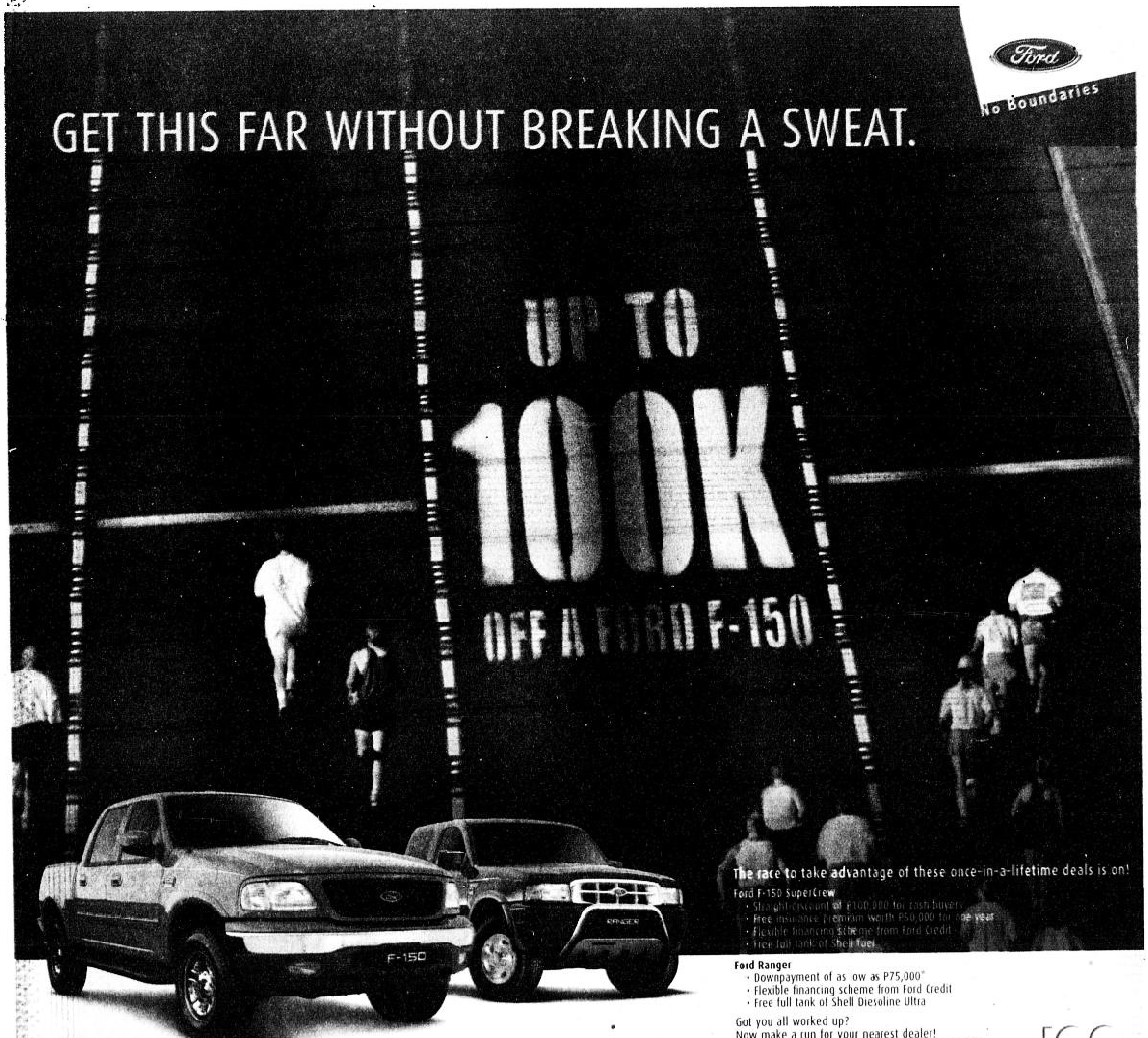
A 20-percent withholding tax is equivalent to a final tax that a person earning P140,000 a year will have to pay the government. But entertainers and athletes earn much more than this.

Specified as covered by the BIR Revenue Regulation No. 6 issued on July 31, 2001, are professional entertainers such as, but not limited to, actors and actresses, singers and emcees; professional athletes including basketball players, pelotaris, and jockeys; all directors involved in movies, stage, radio, television, and musical productions.

Also covered by the increase to 20 percent in withholding taxes were other recipients of talent fees, fees of corporate directors whose duties were confined to attendance and participation during board meetings, and companies acting as agents for entertainers and performers.

"The amounts subject to the increase in withholding tax include not only fees but also per diems, allowances, and any other form of income payments. In the case of professional entertainers, athletes, and all recipients of talent fees, the amount subject to withholding tax shall also include the amount paid to them for the use of their names in pictures or in print," according to

GOV'T/ B3



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Group eyes bank for OFWs

By Michelle V. Remo

A BANK owned, used and run by overseas Filipino workers.

This is the flagship project of the OFW Net Foundation Inc., an organization geared toward the political and economic empowerment of OFWs worldwide.

Eddie del Rosario, chair of the board of directors of OFW Net Foundation, said the bank would be put up in five years' time.

He said it would be beneficial for OFWs because this would help them manage their hard-earned money.

He said some OFWs who came back to their families found themselves returning abroad since their savings were easily depleted due to the lack of knowledge on how to properly use the money.

Del Rosario added that the OFW bank would start as a rural bank, which will provide microfinancing for OFWs who want to start up a business or expand an existing one.

The bank, he said, would provide various loans for OFWs such as for housing and education of their children.

OFW Net Foundation has an estimated net worth of P7 million to P10 million, according to Del Rosario, and has about 500 members worldwide.

He said that OFW Net Foundation was expecting its members to increase to 1,000 to 1,500 by the middle of the year, and to 2,000 to 2,500 by the end of the year.

Each member, or what Del Rosario called "founder-investor," has invested a minimum amount of $220 and a maximum amount of $10,120.

Having a limit on the amount of investment, Del Rosario explained, would keep any member from having a majority control of the organization.

Aside from putting up the OFW bank, OFW Net Foundation manages other business activities, such as on remittances, and travels and tours.

These businesses are handled by OFW International Inc., a corporation put up by OFW Net Foundation and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Aside from economically empowering OFWs, OFW Net Foundation also involves its members in political issues concerning their welfare.

The organization has pushed for approval of dual citizenship and absentee voting.

OFW Net Foundation was established in 2001, and was organized by OFWs around the world who initially interacted with each other via the Internet to form an online campaign to oust former President Joseph Estrada.

Citystate Savings Bank, Inc.
709 Shaw Blvd. Pasig City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
As of December 12. 2002

ASSETS		AMOUNT
Cash & Cash Items	P	28,778,646.25
Due From Central Bank		2,701,510.92
Due From Other Banks		27,654,045.68
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		809.548.216.60
Available for Sale Sec.-Govt. Others		52,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		13,730,338.81
Equity Investment in Financial Allied Undertakings		389,500.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		103,862,368.77
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/ Acquired		44,126,948.21
Others		109,455,978.05
TOTAL ASSETS	P	1,192,257,553.29
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	37,235,115.07
Savings Deposits		624,701,948.17
Time Deposits		-
Due to BSP		325,262.31
Managers Check		11,720,840.01
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable		5,742,833.08
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		1,841,945.81
Other Liabilities		24,277,722.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	705,845,667.39
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	441,000,000.00
Paid-In Surplus		2,222,444.00
Surplus Free		16,210,419.66
Undivided Profits		26,979,022.24
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	486,411,885.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	1,192,257,553.29
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Items Held For Safekeeping	P	372.00
Items Held As Collateral		349.00
Late Deposits / payments received		284,154.90
Deficiency Claims Receivable		1,434,382.42
Outward Bills for Collections		169,740.82
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	1,888,999.14

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President

Atty. Ray D. Delfin
Executive Vice President

COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW:

	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Prescribed Rates of Compliance		
Actual Compliance	110.19 %	892.16 %

OTHER INFORMATION: (CB Circular 208)		
Non-performing loans and	P	30,273,735.75
Ratio to total Loan Portfolio		3.68%
Classified loans and other risk assets	P	30,273,735.75
General loan loss reserve	P	1,002,345.69
Specific loan loss reserve	P	11,940,836.33
Return on equity (ROE)		8.45%
DOSRI loans/advances	P	12,746,889.44
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and		1.55%
Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total portfolio		N-O-N-E

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PASIG CITY) S.S.

We, Eduardo O. Olavario and D. Alfred A. Cabangon, solemnly swear that all matters set forth in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO O. OLAVARIO
Vice President

(Sgd.) D. ALFRED A. CABANGON
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 07th day of October, 2002, affiant exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No.13384953 issued at Bacoor, Cavite on February 1, 2002 and Residence Certificate No. 07743368 issued at Mandaluyong City on January 14, 2002 respectively.

(Sgd.) TEODORO O. VILLAPENA, JR.
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Doc. No. 61
Page 13
Book No. 1
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SEC leads info drive for Filipino workers abroad

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission, the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Stock Exchange Foundation will soon launch a global, multi-media campaign to raise public awareness on how to invest given that many of the country's overseas Filipino workers have become victims of scams.

In a recent briefing, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the three groups were working on developing short video and film presentations and flyers that would teach the public how to avoid scams and persuade them to invest in legitimate investment vehicles such as the stock market and mutual funds.

"We are supposed to have the materials out this January. We will also give them to the embassies to show or distribute to the overseas Filipino workers," Bautista said.

She noted that many victims of alleged investment scams such as Multitel and MMG involved thousands of OFWs who had little access to local information.

The SEC has made intensifying and broadening the reach of investors' education/assistance one of its top priorities this year.

The SEC intends to translate a citizen's manual providing basic information on SEC processes, fees, and penalties among others into Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Ilocano and Bicolano.

The Commission will also continue to issue investor alerts and advisories regarding investment scams and fraud and conduct more provincial investor information seminars.

Web-based information materials and education tools for investors will continue to be made available on the SEC's website (www.sec.gov.ph) covering all matters pertaining to the SEC and the capital market, as well as useful information on scams and swindles.

FCDU loans down 15% in 3rd quarter

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLLAR loans from the banking system's foreign currency deposit units sustained its decline as of end-September, down by 15.4 percent or $893.8 million to $4.9 billion from $5.79 billion in 2001.

Against the previous quarter, FCDU loans shrank by 5 percent or $252.5 million from $5.15 billion as of the second quarter of 2002, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The slack in FCDU loans continued despite a strong rebound in exports in 2002. The 15.7-percent contraction in the country's exports in 2001 was largely blamed for the 11-percent plunge in banks' dollar loans from $6.25 billion in 2000.

The central bank noted that in contrast, peso loans of commercial banks stood at P1.16 trillion, or up by 3.9 percent and 4.7 percent from the previous quarter and the previous year, respectively.

"The figures suggest that borrowers continued to prefer peso borrowings to foreign currency loans to avoid exposure to forex risks, particularly from the peso depreciation," the BSP said in a statement.

A bank analyst said that credits from the FCDUs have been trending down since 2000 when the peso depreciated against the dollar, making borrowings from the dollar deposit units more expensive.

At the same time, a BSP official noted that local interest rates have stayed low in 2002, ranging from 8 to 9.8 percent during the third quarter. FCDU loans, however, carried an interest rate of 3.6 percent during the same period.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(As of December 17, 2002)

ASSETS		AMOUNT
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	P	809,399,751
Due from Other Banks		1,347,255,848
Trading Account Securities – net		2,054,099,586
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments – net		555,568,661
Loans, Discounts & Advances – net		1,280,088,353
Equity Investments		5,500,100
Bank Premises, Furniture Fixtures & Equipment – net		28,999,951
Real and Other Properties Owned/Acquired		17,176,250
Other Assets		102,534,032
TOTAL ASSETS	P	6,200,622,532
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	602,028,524
Time Deposits		1,792,497,189
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		1,430,094
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,780,387
Bills Payable		836,260,747
Other Liabilities		303,963,373
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	3,537,960,314
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	1,850,000,000
Capital Stock Deposit		315,000,000
Surplus		491,388,260
Other Capital Accounts		6,273,958
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	2,662,622,218
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	6,200,622,532
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	P	3,551,935,174
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		3,751,686,540
Items Held for Safekeeping/Collaterals		5,342,125,322
Items Held in Trust		121,620,357
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	12,767,367,393

OTHER INFORMATION*
Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises	2% for Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	6.1179%	2.7167%

Amount of Non-Performing Loans	P	-
Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		0.0%
Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	P	-
General provision for loan losses	P	13,390,845
Specific provision for loan losses	P	-
Return on Equity (ROE)		3.15%
Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	P	42,664,009
Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		1.43%
Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	P	-
Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio		-

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to all Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)S.S

We, **Vicente B. Castillo** and **Agnes B. Santos** of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) AGNES B. SANTOS
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICENTE B. CASTILLO
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 10th day of January 2003 affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 11973021, issued at Makati City on April 5, 2002 and Resident Certificate No. 09751601 issued at Pasig City on January 7, 2002, respectively.

(Sgd) Ma. Carmen A. Oreña
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 6744208
Date Issued : January 10, 2002
Makati City
TIN 121-493-201

Doc. No 449
Book No XXIII
Page No 91
Series of 2002

Homeless Marcos

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

A SISTER of the late President Marcos, Fortuna Marcos-Barba, is in danger of losing her own home in Dasmariñas Village.

Barba appeared at the Manila Regional Trial Court last week, hoping to seek the arrest or even possible extradition of her niece, Imelda Foronda, who has reportedly fled to the United States after allegedly defrauding her elderly aunt.

Barba has accused Foronda of having illegally sold not only the Marcos-Barba home in Dasmariñas Village, but also, unknown to Barba, two pieces of family property in Quezon City and Paco, Manila.

Foronda has reportedly fled to the Chicago area, beating a warrant of arrest issued by the Manila court.

Barba, who is now in her late 70s, is now trying to fight from being evicted by a Chinese-Filipino businessman, who claims to have acquired the Dasma property from Foronda.

Visas for rent

ACQUIRING an investor's visa should soon be a breeze, compared to the wringer that a foreign applicant now undergoes at the Board of Investments.

According to J. Antonio Leviste, chair of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority, the issuance of special investor visa program would soon be transferred from the BOI to the PLRA, after having obtained the approval of BOI Chair, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas.

PLRA would do away with the battery of psychiatric tests that an applicant has to undergo and therefore, together with other changes, processing time should be cut down from the current five months to only five days, this according to Leviste.

Also known as Mr. Loren Legarda, Leviste is trying to change his agency's culture from a regulatory agency to that of a marketing outfit.

PLRA is now on a hiring binge for marketing agents, and Leviste is still looking for a marketing manager to handle the day-to-day sales efforts.

Depending on the foreign applicant's qualification, a permanent visa may be obtained for $50,000 or $75,000 deposit, the funds being kept and accruing interest in an accredited local bank under the foreigner's name.

The dollar deposit may be pulled out anytime that the foreigner decides to give up his visa.

This and other details are available in the PLRA website at www.ir2visa.com or www.pra-visa.com.

Baguio 'hoodlum' update

THE SUPREME Court has reversed a Baguio Regional Trial Court order dismissing a penis-fondling complaint filed by an American teenager against a drunken Baguio Country Club employee.

The Baguio court, citing forum shopping, initially dismissed the civil complaint, but the high tribunal said the criminal case filed by the complainant is different from the civil/damage suit as the latter case now involves the entire BCC and its ranking officers as defendants.

The Supreme Court handed the order in late October, but the Baguio RTC up to last week could not re-raffle the case because of the holidays and the

COCKTALES/ B4

Gov't widens ....

From page B1

the BIR regulation.

The government decided to increase the withholding tax rate for entertainers and athletes starting September 2001 because of the widespread practice among these taxpayers to approximate their final tax with their withholding taxes even if in most instances, the final tax was much higher.

The BIR said the entertainers and professional athletes were classified as "hard to tax" because their earnings vary, unlike fixed-income earners whose withholding tax end up to be their final tax obligation.

Camacho said the exemption of professionals from VAT had cost the government P8.6 billion in foregone revenues each year.

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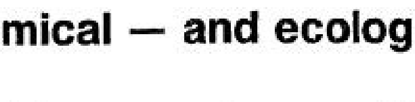

Better tone prevails in the stock market

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

MY ARTICLE on birth control got me into all sorts of trouble. I have been excommunicated by the Pope, the Chief Rabbi and the Dalai Llama. However, I received praise from the Chinese Embassy so I might be peeking into Beijing some time this year.

A shipping line, wishing to avoid overcrowding, has installed a system to prevent it. If you want to visit one of the islands, you must book a berth. Unfortunately, to get on board you have to pass through berth control. Two nuns were rather turned off by this but they said, "We have to make the trip every month so we might as well get into the habit."

A doctor was called about 1 a.m. by a distraught mother. "Please come immediately, Doctor, my son has just swallowed a contraceptive." The doctor dressed quickly and was about to leave when the phone rang again. "It's all right, Doctor, I just found another one."

The President was in the Makati Stock Exchange just over a week ago when the Phisix went up 21 points. She told members that she had just passed the SPAV and Procurements Acts, and in the weeks ahead, the acts would fall on more ministers' necks.

For the first time in eight years, I played in a bridge tournament and met some of the friends I used to play with. I partnered a psychiatrist, who made a fortune by specializing in patients with multiple personalities, and giving them a group discount. While we were playing, his cell phone rang and a patient said, "Doctor, I feel like I am a biscuit." "Are you square and slightly salty?" "Yes." "Do people put cheese on you?" "Yes, yes," said the patient. "There's no doubt about it. You're crackers."

My wife has started to have a few gray hairs. I do not want her to look old, so I gave her an ultimatum, "Reform or dye!"

I have written in the INQUIRER, and frequently in my daily newsletter, that the practice of marking up certain stocks at 10 seconds to noon should be stopped. The SEC wishes to put an end to this by following the Australian Stock Exchange, which has a variable closing time but the method suggested to them is too dramatic. Pagcor will lend the SEC a roulette wheel, and at 9:29 a.m., an officer will spin it. Depending on which number comes up, the market will close anywhere between 9:35 a.m. and 5 p.m. If the ball falls in either of the two zeros, the PSE servers will break down.

Since the President's pep talk, there has been a better tone in the market and, coincidentally, foreign brokers have stopped being net sellers of our stocks. A look at TSUPITERO's chart will show you that foreign brokers have been net sellers from last April right up to the yearend, and this has put pressure on the market, forcing the index below the 1,000 level. If it was not for the massive build-up in the Middle East and the near certainly of war with Iraq, I would be moving from my bearish stance of the past four years, to mildly bullish. But I am staying liquid, with the intention of buying selected stocks if the market takes a dive when war breaks out, probably next month.

There are still some unsettling happenings. Apart from Erap's accusations, which I am not getting involved in, the National Statistics Office has been feeding the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas with erroneous information. Imports have been grossly understated with the result that in 2000, the reported surplus was overstated by P3 billion. The large surplus in 2001 was possibly a deficit, so there has been a massive distortion of about P7 billion in the past two years. The figures for 2002 are not yet known but are thought to be fairly accurate. All three rating agencies have downgraded us, and at present, we have little credibility abroad. If you want to get a copy of these figures, they are available in bookshops in the fiction sector, sandwiched between "Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings."

After GMA assured us that there would be no more brownouts, Mr. Perez warned that Cebu, Negros and Panay could have extended outages within the next three years because the bill to put up more transmission lines has been languishing in the Senate for the best part of last year. If not tackled soon, the impact on the economy could be devastating. Now that Gloria is free to act as she pleases, I hope she will make sure that this bill, and many others, will be passed quickly. By so doing, she will make an important contribution to the country's recovery. She has a wonderful opportunity to do well, she must not squander it.

There is one piece of good news that will take a lot of pressure off the BSP and prevent dollar-denominated yields from going higher. The $500-million 10-year bond, 2013, recently issued gives a return of 9.50 percent. To help us out, Japan is giving us $152 million for development purposes at extremely favorable rates. Japan is offering a 40-year loan at 0.75 percent, practically zero, and the government must grab it with both hands. It will help put a brake on interest rates this year and prevent the national debt from rising as much as it did last year. In the first nine months of 2002, our debt rose by an astronomical 18 percent.

I am hopeful that after the war, which I think will be over very quickly, as Saddam will flee to Libya rather than face death or life imprisonment before the International Court in The Hague. If he does this, the Red Guard will have no stomach to fight overwhelming US firepower and will surrender rather than be massacred. The US is sending six aircraft carriers and the Philippines is sending one typhoid carrier. When the market starts to improve, I will devote more space to the market and less to the jokes.

I said I would not take anymore subscribers unless someone dropped out. Well, there are two vacancies. One subscriber has gone to the US to seek his fortune, and the other is taking a post graduate course overseas. So if you are interested, contact mrbearbull@hotmail.com. I feel that this is a good time to join as February could well be an excellent month for short-term trading. I am bringing back the support and resistance levels for the active stocks. If you are trading through another broker, this tells you where to place your BUY and SELL orders. I will also rewrite the 10 Commandments, as there are many new readers since last February.

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Alabang Country Club "A"	-	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B"	1,000,000	-
Baguio Country Club	650,000	600,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	200,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	110,000	95,000
Canyon Woods	180,000	Pls. Call
Canlubang Golf	495,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	80,000	60,000
Celebrity Sports Club	200,000	150,000
Club Filipino	170,000	150,000
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	330,000/500,000*	-
Eastridge "B"	150,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana GIC"A"*	10,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills "A"/"C"	200,000/250,000*	180,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,600,000*	10,500,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,450,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	250,000	220,000
Manila Yacht Club	610,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	550,000/720,000*	400,000
Metropolitan Club	180,000	80,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	140,000	100,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	350,000/450,000*	300,000
Orchard Golf A/Corp*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	220,000	180,000
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	130,000/380,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	-	130,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	80,000/Pls. Call*	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	380,000	Pls. Call
Sherwoods "A"/"B"/"C"**	65,000/Pls. Call*	55,000/70,000
Sta. Elena Golf "A"/"B"	1,450,000	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	290,000	-
Subic Golf	145,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	330,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	820,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	-
Valley Golf & CC	330,000	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	140,000
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,000,000

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,500,000
Baguio Country Club	600,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	80,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"		80,000
Camp John Hay		240,000
Canlubang		500,000
Canyonwoods	-	180,000
Capitol Hills	90,000	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	165,000	210,000
Club Filipino	-	160,000
Eastridge "A"		Please Call
Evercrest "A"		80,000
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Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	275,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,500,000	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,200,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	2,400,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	500,000	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	650,000	Please Call
Manila Yacht Club	-	630,000
Metropolitan Club "A"		130,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		130,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	140,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	Please Call	300,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	450,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	-	230,000
Rockwell	320,000	400,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sherwood Hills "B"		170,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Sta. Elena "A"	Please Call	1,550,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	340,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	780,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	170,000
Valley Golf	260,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	-

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CALATAGAN "A"	90K	RIVIERA "A"	Call now	EAGLERIDGE "A"	280K
CAMP JOHN HAY	270K	STA. ELENA "A"	1.5M	EAGLERIDGE "B"	350K
CANLUBANG GC	450K	SUBIC YACHT (CORP)	290K	FAIRWAYS "A"	250K
CAPITOL HILLS	120K	TAG MIDLANDS	Call now	MIMOSA (CORP)	270K
CC @ TAG	Call now	VALLEY GOLF	310K	MLA GOLF (CORP)	10.5M
MLA GOLF (INDIV)	12M	WACK WACK	6.5M	MLA POLO	2.45M
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CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	70,000.00	-
CAMP JOHN HAY	225,000.00	-
CANYON WOODS	-	160,000.00
CALIRAYA GOLF	300,000.00	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	175,000.00	-
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FONTANA "D"	50,000.00	-
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MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	600,000.00	please call
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BANKS					
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Bank of the Phil. Islands	37	38	37	38	1,169,700
China Banking Corp.	630	640	630	640	8,960
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	28	27	27	132,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30.5	31	49,400
Philippine National Bank	26	27	26	26	7,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.8	28,000
Security Bank Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	8,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1250	1190	1245	370
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1010	1030	1010	1030	3,760
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	4,120,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	520	525	510	525	12,630
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	1,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.015	0.017	0.015	0.017	1,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	330	332.5	322.5	325	136,900
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	9.5	9.6	9.2	9.2	204,000
Manila Electric Co. B	13	13.25	12.75	13	1,450,200
Petron Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	2,791,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	15,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	1,470,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	3,166,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	557,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	90,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.16	2.14	2.16	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	248,900
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	1,130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	28,200
San Miguel Corp. B	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	201,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	54,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.45	4.5	2,693,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	80,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,080
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.165	3,160,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	1,020,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	10	10	9.9	9.9	568,000
Ionics Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.76	0.76	1,320,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	267,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.61	3,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.18	110,000
Music Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	170,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12.75	12	12.5	227,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	430,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.25	14.25	14	14	10,259,800
Jollibee Warrants	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	22,793,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.13	0.145	0.13	0.145	1,150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	1.02	0.98	0.99	4,810,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	51,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	24,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	5,073,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	81,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	3,180,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	670,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	150,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	18,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc.	1,560,790	60,148,950.00
Comm'l & Ind'l.	50,933,730	275,424,965.00
PRO	35,601,000	150,925,310.00
Mining	85,100,000	1,244,250.00
OIL	26,000,000	50,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	199,195,520	487,794,275.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc.	390.56	UP 4.96
Comm'l & Ind'l.	1,534.29	UP 6.17
PRO	471.63	UP 4.94
Mining	1,360.19	UP 22.47
OIL	1.03	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	658.07	UP 3.57
Composite	1,081.60	UP 7.15

NO. OF ADVANCES: 29; NO. OF DECLINES: 13; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 78;
NO. OF TRADES: 1,572

CURRENCIES

Jan. 17, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.941620	1.000000	53.502000
Japan	Yen	0.007994	0.008490	0.454200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.517137	1.611200	86.202400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.120740	0.128226	6.860300
Switzerland	Franc	0.685213	0.727696	38.933200
Canada	Dollar	0.613473	0.651508	34.857000
Singapore	Dollar	0.543817	0.577534	30.899200
Australia	Dollar	0.552269	0.586510	31.379500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.497731	2.652590	141.918900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.251092	0.266660	14.266800
Brunei	Dollar	0.542251	0.575871	30.810300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000113	0.006000
Thailand	Baht	0.022062	0.023430	1.253600
UAE	Dirham	0.256377	0.272272	14.567100
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.062000	56.819100
ArgentinaPeso	0.289729	0.307692	16.462100	
Brazil	REAL	0.285945	0.303674	16.247200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134554	0.142896	7.645200
India	Rupee	0.019674	0.020894	1.117900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.247828	0.263193	14.081400
Mexico	New Peso	0.089423	0.094967	5.080900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510917	0.542594	29.029900
Norway	Kroner	0.137523	0.146049	7.813900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016221	0.017227	0.921700
South Africa	Rand	0.107079	0.113718	6.084100
Korea	Won	0.000807	0.000857	0.045900
Sweden	Kroner	0.108941	0.115695	6.189900
Syria	Pound	0.018283	0.019417	1.038800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.027421	0.029121	1.558000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000544	0.000578	0.030900

Stocks seen to rise

From page B1

The two laws will boost the economy by easing the burden of bad assets and reducing corruption in the system, he noted.

"Market players also took the President's statements of pursuing more economic reforms positively," Ravelas said.

He said that Friday's close at 1081.30 satisfied expectations of a testing of the 1075-1080 level. "Given the test of the 1080 level, expect further tests towards the 1,100 level in the week ahead," he said.

RCBC Securities agreed there was room for the market, which has been trading with a favorable momentum for two consecutive weeks, to further rise on follow-through buying.

"In the coming weeks, the market may explore new ground, hopefully with a band of investors willing to trail blaze through a fast-growing plantation of pricey assets," it said.

RCBC Securities said investors were cherry-picking as indicated by the appetite on companies with optimistic earnings potentials such as Jollibee Foods Corp., San Miguel Corp., SM Prime Holdings and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"All these issues seem to have plateaued, at least for the moment, but we suspect theirs will come again during the next phase of this rally," it said.

But until then, it said the Ayala group of companies seemed capable of holding the market's ground.

"But of course, there are other companies that would probably benefit during times when investors become really choosy. Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., of course, is in the list of stable companies. Through the year, the issue may also generate some excitement as it earlier intimated its desire to partake of the P13 billion worth of transmission assets to be privatized," it said.

"Petron (Corp.) could be a come from behind pick, with its healthy earnings and an above average dividend payout. The refiner however, which has often been politicized, may face uncertainties should the US-Iraq tiff escalate," it said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Cocktales

From page B3

lack of judges.

The original judge that handled the civil case and dismissed it happens to be one of the "hoodlum" judges denounced by fellow RTC Judge Ruben Ayson. The original judge, who has "special" ties to the club and its officers, has admitted to brokering an out-of-court settlement between the club and the complainant's family.

To expedite the case, the father of the complainant, a longtime American businessman here, has asked that the trial be transferred to Metro Manila, since the BCC also maintains an office in the capital.

In addition, the leading BCC officers like chair Rep. Rodolfo Albano, president Federico Agcaoili, excom chair Sylvia I. Yap, corporate secretary Victoria de los Reyes, and legal counsel Lorna Kapunan all live and work in Metro Manila.

What is ironic about the whole mess is that, instead of the club reaching out to the complainants' family, the BCC even cancelled the membership of the complainant's parents and banned the entire family altogether from ever stepping inside the club grounds.

Heard through the grapevine

THE COMPETITION among the airlines must be getting really tough that Northwest Airlines is now even offering free TV and stereo sets for US-bound business class passengers from Manila.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Solons buck 'pro-rich' auto tax reform package

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT'S proposal to shift from engine-based to value-based taxes for motor vehicles is facing a major roadblock in Congress, where a number of lawmakers are not too keen on giving the green light to a "pro-rich" tax reform package that will yield modest gains in revenues.

In an interview, Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves, vice chair of the House ways and means committee, said the tax reform would mostly benefit the rich, as taxes on luxury cars with the BMW, Mercedes Benz, Jaguar and Volvo marques would be slashed from 100 percent to only 50 percent.

In contrast, Teves said, Asian-utility vehicles—which have displaced the jeepney as the backbone of public transport in Metro Manila—would be stripped of its tax-exempt status and carry a 15-percent tax.

Teves said the shift in tax valuation would not necessarily lead to higher revenue collections as envisioned by the Department of Finance and Department of Trade and Industry.

Discussions of the technical working panel of the House ways and means committee showed that the tax reform plan would generate less than P300 million in additional revenues, just a fraction of the finance and trade department's projection of P2 billion to P3 billion annually.

The DOF is hoping that the shift in tax valuation and abolition of all tax exemptions, specifically on vehicles with a minimum seating capacity of 10, will lead to higher revenues that may help cut the budget deficit, which has swollen to P200.55 billion as of November last year.

The DTI endorsed the tax reform package in response to intense lobbying by Washington, which criticized the current vehicle tax system as discriminatory because it penalized US vehicles, such as Ford's Expedition sport-utility vehicle, which have big engines and favors Japanese vehicles that have compact engines.

Roughly seven out of three vehicles sold in the Philippines are tax exempt due to the 10-seater rule.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the new tax rates would make passenger cars more affordable to a greater number of Filipinos since their taxes would be cut from 15 percent to 3 percent.

Based on the proposed tax changes, vehicles worth P500,000 and below would be slapped a token 3-percent tax of the net manufacturer's price; vehicles worth between P501,000 and P1 million would be charged P15,000 in taxes, plus 15 percent of their value in excess of P500,000; vehicles worth between P1.001 million and P2 million would be taxed P90,000, plus 30 percent of the value in excess of P1 million; and vehicles worth over P2 million would be slapped with a P390,000 tax, plus 50 percent of their value in excess of P2 million.

Petrochem firms back tempered tariff cut

THE ASSOCIATION of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines (APMP) is supporting Malacañang's decision to defer the planned reduction of tariffs on resins from 15 to 10 percent, although this group of midstream players has batted to maintain duties at 15 percent.

In a statement, APMP chair Wilfredo Paras said while the APMP regretted that the Cabinet Tariff and Related Matters Committee declined to heed the President's order to take full advantage of all exemption windows, it would back up efforts to ensure the success of a "win-win" solution.

Paras said the APMP would now focus its efforts on cooperating with the government and the downstream industries, especially now with the extreme tightness in the market.

The APMP will monitor whether Executive Order 161, which invoked the country's option to exempt the petrochemical sector from the Asean Free Trade Area up to 2004, has lived up to the government and downstream industries' expectations.

Paras said the low tariffs should lead to lower prices of plastics, since finished plastic goods makers claimed that their production costs would go down if duties on resin would be lowered.

Also, Paras said the tariff reduction should minimize smuggling of resins based on the tariff cut supporters' rationale that lower tariffs eliminate incentives to smuggling.

APMP said the principal gauge in measuring the success of the EO should be the increase in capacity utilization of both makers of resins and finished plastic goods.

Paras also called on all players to encourage investors in putting up a naphtha cracker project in the country to complete the industry's integration. The downstream industries represented by the Philippine Plastic Industries Association had earlier claimed the cracker was doomed to fail due to flaws in design and location. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

The best of eight

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

OF THE eight programs the President said she would tackle in the next 18 months before bowing out, cutting government red tape is the one I like the best. If I am not mistaken, this is the first time any administration has even hinted openly that there is such a problem as government red tape.

Red tape refers to the red tape once used to bind legal documents in 1700 England. The dictionary now defines the term as "official routine or procedure marked by excessive complexity which leads to delay or inaction." Let me add "graft and corruption."

Red tape in all levels of government is so pervasive as to suffocate. After going through a tedious transaction in a government office, which usually entails your paying the government some amount of money in exchange for some service, you finally leave gasping for air. Anyone who renews his driver's license or registers his car, pays realty tax or even buys a residence certificate knows what I mean.

Government offices are now bristling with personal computers and laptops, but you sometimes suspect that these wondrous machines are the very causes of the circuitously maddening procedures you have to wade through. Computerization is supposed to make life easier for everyone. But, somehow, government offices manage to make life difficult even with the help of computers.

When my wife passed away about two years ago, I went to the local office of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for information on how to settle the estate tax. The estate merely consisted of a residential house and lot and some shares of stock. I found out I had to submit a dozen supporting documents, which took me about three months to put together. By September 2001, I paid what the revenue officer assessed me. I was told that the approval of my papers would take months. I wondered why, since I paid what was assessed.

At least once a month, I called the revenue officer. One year later, I finally got some action—I was assessed a small additional amount. I guess the assessment division people who reviewed my return had to show something for their trouble. I was told that if I paid the extra assessment, I would get my approval within a week. So, I paid. The week stretched to six.

It took almost fourteen months after I paid the initial assessment to get the certificate authorizing registration, a rather complicated form with three signatures.

Friends tell me that I could have speeded things up had I paid my way. But, I thought, "Why should I?" After all, I paid what was assessed.

Red tape is also meant to spread the risk, as we say in the insurance business. Nobody wants to take sole responsibility, so everybody and his uncle have to sign the papers. And everybody takes a slice of the pie. The Impsa contract is a perfect example. The full-page ads on the Manila papers show how many people had a hand in the transaction over a period of several years. So, who is at fault? Everybody and nobody.

The beauty with a program to cut red tape is we don't need a foreign loan, or even a congressional appropriation, to implement it. The techniques are well known. The employees themselves who are involved are in the best position to simplify procedures.

But the employees will be the biggest obstruction because of the probable loss of jobs. So, they have to be assured that no jobs will be lost. But an early retirement program should be made available for those who want it.

It will be impossible to put a peso figure on how much money will be saved by cutting government red tape. But it will be tremendous. On top of it all, think of the frazzled nerves that the Filipino people will avoid. We will end up a mentally healthier nation.

In the private sector, cutting red tape is a constant activity, especially in a highly competitive business like insurance. You have to be a couple of steps ahead of the competition.

Margaret Thatcher is considered one of the greatest prime ministers England has ever had. Her accomplishments were formidable. But her greatest claim to fame was cutting government red tape. If President Macapagal-Arroyo can cut government red tape, she will be the Margaret Thatcher of this country. Not only that, I think the Filipino people should propose her for canonization.

Shell earmarks P80M to build asphalt facility

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. is investing some P80 million in a bitumen plant as part of its efforts to firm up its leadership in the asphalt-making industry.

Pilipinas Shell said the new facility being built in Villanueva town in Misamis Oriental would have a daily output of 150 metric tons of bitumen and would be able to store up to 4,000 metric tons.

Bitumen is a residue from refining crude oil and is the raw material for making asphalt, which is mainly used in road construction and repair.

Compared to concrete roads, asphalt roads are common in the Philippines, especially in the provinces.

In a statement, Pilipinas Shell business manager Jimmy Bongga said the bitumen facility would play a key role in the road-building program of the national government as well as in economic development in Mindanao.

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2002 BMW 318i M Sport	Php 2,070,000.00
2002 BMW 325i Touring	Php 2,500,000.00
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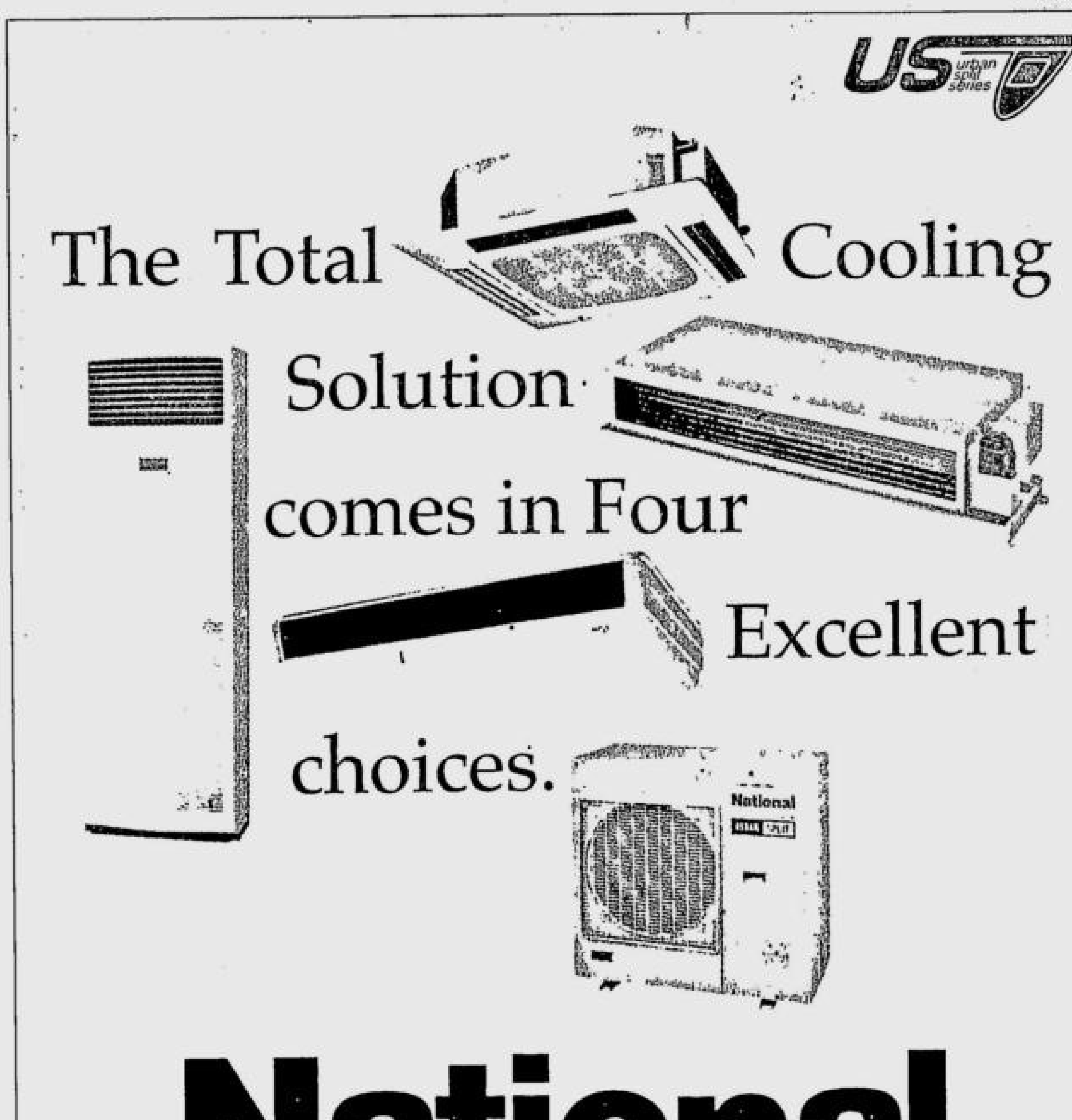

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US to still stage economic rebound in 2003, analysts say

WASHINGTON—The US economy will turn around in early 2003 despite weaker-than-expected manufacturing output and a larger-than-expected trade deficit in the final months of 2002, economists said.

"The fourth quarter is weak, but I think momentum starts going up again from here," said James O'Sullivan, economist at UBS Warburg.

O'Sullivan said a surprising widening of the US trade deficit to a record seasonally adjusted $40.1 billion in November forced a revision to his expectations for growth in the final three months of last year.

"The numbers this morning were weak, especially the trade report as far as feeding into GDP, so we cut our Q4 GDP forecast to 0.8 percent from 1.8," he said.

Earlier, the Commerce Department reported that the trade deficit for goods and services widened by a more-than-expected 13.9 percent to a record seasonally adjusted $40.1 billion in November from a revised $35.2 billion in October.

While it is likely to drag down fourth-quarter growth, economists said the widening deficit is a result of a combination of increased demand and the resolution of the West Coast port lockout in November.

"Nonetheless, the November trade data do not suggest a weak economy since strong import growth is indicative of strong demand," economist John Ryding of Bear Stearns wrote in a research note.

In addition to the trade numbers, the Federal Reserve reported that industrial output fell 0.2 percent in December, defying expectations that output would rise by 0.3 percent in the month.

Still, economists are sanguine that the US manufacturing sector is solidly in recovery. *AFP*

Iraq, Venezuela fears hound economy—IMF

LIMA, Peru—The specter of war in Iraq and instability in the world's No. 5 oil producer, Venezuela, as well as world market woes, bode poorly for the global economy, a top IMF official said on Friday.

The IMF had estimated that the world economy would grow by 3.7 percent in 2003 and has not changed that estimate but the International Monetary Fund's deputy managing director Eduardo Aninat told a conference at Peru's Central Bank that the lender believed that there were "several risk factors."

"First, there is the impact of the high price of oil due to the threat of war with Iraq which is further complicated by the situation in Venezuela ... which is tacking on a few more dollars to the price per barrel," he said.

Oil prices have shot up in recent months during a standoff between US President George W. Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Oil hit a new two-year high on Friday with US light crude at $34 a barrel after US Secretary of State Colin Powell was quoted as saying Washington would soon prove that Iraq was not cooperating with UN arms inspectors.

World commodity markets have been further shaken by a general strike in Venezuela.

The strike has cut oil exports to one-fifth of what they were before the opposition began trying to oust populist President Hugo Chavez.

The work stoppage is in its seventh week.

Aninat also said the downward corrections in property and equity markets would be another risk factor for world economic growth in 2003.

Aninat, who told Peruvian radio earlier on Friday that Peru was an island of growth in Latin America, said the economically troubled region had lessons to learn.

The IMF estimates the regional economy—wracked in 2002 by debt woes in Argentina and instability in Brazil—shrank 0.6 percent last year.

"The lesson is to shield oneself better in times of stability and growth to be better able to fend off external crises," he said. *Reuters*

MEN wait by a roadside for jobs beneath a billboard advertising a new housing development in Suifenhe, a Chinese city bordering Russia in the northeast province of Heilongjiang. As China transforms itself with lucrative foreign investment and a fast-changing economy, millions of workers, many former employees of state owned enterprises, have been left behind and struggle to survive the changes. AFP

Argentina needs 2 years to renegotiate private debt

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentine Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna said on Friday it will take at least two years for the government to renegotiate its $51 billion in privately held public debt.

"Argentina's (debt) renegotiation will last at least two years," Lavagna told local radio a day after sealing a debt rollover deal with the International Monetary Fund following a year of tortuous negotiations.

Argentina's bondholders are anxiously awaiting details on how long a debt restructuring will take and how much of the debt they hold they will have to effectively write off to get some of their investment back. Meanwhile, a medium-term aid deal will be negotiated with the next government.

Last year, Argentina defaulted on some $95 billion in privately held public debt. It was the world's biggest ever sovereign debt default.

That debt is now worth $51 billion after a currency devaluation and a government policy of converting dollar-denominated debt into devalued pesos.

After a year of drawn-out negotiations, the government on Thursday announced a short-term deal with the IMF to refinance $6.6 billion in debt it owes the lender between January and August.

Analysts have said the government would only be able to renegotiate with private debt holders after an IMF deal was clinched.

But some investors said that two years was too long to wait for an economy trying to clamber out of a four-year recession, its worst on record.

"The economy is going to need money long before that," said Francis Rodilosso, a portfolio manager at Van Eck Capital, which is a member of the Argentina Bondholder Committee.

Most private Argentine companies have been unable to raise credit since the country's default. Economists say that any export-led recovery could be in danger if access to cash remains dry.

Investors say they expect that private bondholders will have to accept a substantial haircut in the value of their bonds. *Reuters*

Ford launches first car in China

CHONGQING, China—US auto giant Ford Motor Co fired its first salvo at China's competitive but fast-growing auto market on Saturday, saying it expected to sell 20,000 units of its Fiesta small car this year.

Sales of the Fiesta—launched on Saturday as the first car Ford is producing in China and aimed directly at the top-selling models of major foreign rivals—should jump to 50,000 in 2004, executive vice president David Thursfield told Reuters.

Ford, the world's second largest auto company, has lagged global competitors such as leader General Motors and Germany's Volkswagen in China. Both started rolling out cars in China years ago and sell a range of different models.

Thursfield said Ford had to quickly push out more products to win a slice of the fastest-growing car market in the world.

"We are conscious of that and we can use our global resources and brands to satisfy the Chinese customer," said Thursfield, head of international operations and global purchasing, in an interview before a ceremony to mark the Fiesta's launch.

The Fiesta takes Ford's long-standing war against GM to China, where booming economic growth spurred car sales to soar 56 percent to 1.126 million units in 2002.

Eight years ago, the Michigan-based Ford was elbowed out of a coveted Shanghai partnership by its cross-town rival GM, which turned the plant into China's third largest.

GM has already signaled a willingness to take on Ford and trimmed prices of its best-selling car in China, the Sail family car, by about 3 percent just days before the Fiesta launch. *Reuters*

US company forecasts expected to be disappointing

NEW YORK—Investors are bracing for a tidal wave of profit forecasts from US companies this week, and there is a growing belief the flood will bring more bad news.

As fourth-quarter results roll in, investment professionals will mostly skip over last year's earnings tallies and go straight for forecasts. After disappointing projections from companies, including software maker Microsoft Corp., Wall Street isn't anticipating much good news.

"People have a pretty good sense of what happened in 2002, so they're looking to see how 2003 and even 2004 will shape up," said Peter Gottlieb, portfolio manager for First Albany Asset Management. "The big fear on Wall Street is that the mild, tenuous recovery we've had is going to dissipate. I think guidance will be muted."

Stocks rallied during the first two weeks of the new year as Wall Street bet an economic recovery would cut through the gloom that has hung over stocks for the past three years. But the market snapped that streak last week after companies such as Microsoft cut their earnings and sales forecasts and said business in the tech industry will likely remain soft.

Adding to the dour mood, International Business Machines Corp. said it expected to meet consensus estimates, provided there was a modest recovery in technology spending. But analysts are divided on whether such a rebound will happen and a slew of Wall Street houses cut their earnings estimates on IBM.

"Bellwethers Microsoft and IBM are reflecting weaknesses in their business," said Richard Cripps, chief market strategist at Legg Mason Wood Walker. "Part of the economic forecast for the year is dependent upon an improvement in capital spending in business investment, and their outlooks call that into question."

For the week, the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 2.8 percent, the Nasdaq composite index dropped 4.9 percent, and the Dow Jones industrial average sagged 2.3 percent.

This week's four-day trading period will be the busiest of the fourth-quarter corporate reporting season, according to market research firm Thomson First Call. US stock markets are closed on Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

About 125 companies in the S&P 500, or a quarter of the index members, are expected to post results, including financial group Citigroup Inc., conglomerate 3M Corp. and carmaker Ford Motor Co. on Tuesday.

"3M will be important because it's so tied in with the economy," said Gottlieb.

On Wednesday, earnings reports from drugmaker Pfizer Inc. and bank JP Morgan Chase & Co. are anticipated, and fast-food chain McDonald's Corp. is expected on Thursday.

To be sure, there are signs of better days ahead. Corporate earnings have bounced off last year's dismal levels and economic data have shown signs of strength. *Reuters*

General Electric loses its Midas touch

NEW YORK—General Electric, the US conglomerate known for double-digit earnings growth over recent years, on Friday reported a rare dip in profits as it capped a horrendous year in 2002.

GE said its fourth-quarter profit declined 21 percent from the same period a year ago, to $3.102 billion, due to big insurance write-offs. Over the full year 2002, the company said its net profit was up 7 percent to $15.1 billion.

Things were not that bad for the US conglomerate, which makes everything from light bulbs and jet engines to gas turbines and also has a large financial services division, as well as the NBC television network among its media holdings.

GE is still making money, and it remains the world's No. 2 company in terms of market capitalization despite a steep decline over the past year. But some of the magic about GE is gone, analysts said.

"2002 was a sloppy year for GE's income statement and much lower than normal quality of earnings," Credit Suisse First Boston said in a note.

"Unfortunately, we don't expect that to change much in 2003."

Other analysts say GE's performance simply reflects the tough economic times.

"All told, GE performed arguably well in 2002 despite one of the toughest business environments in nearly two decades," Deutsche Bank Securities said.

GE chief executive Jeff Immelt, who took over in 2001 from the legendary Jack Welch, also sought to highlight the company's accomplishments in a weak environment.

"Our businesses posted impressive customer wins and continued to invest in technologies and services that will position them for long-term success. I'm proud of the performance of the GE team in such a tough environment," Immelt said. *AFP*

G7/G8 finance meet set for Feb.

PARIS—A meeting of Group of Seven/Group of Eight finance ministers, initially scheduled for late this month in Paris, will be held Feb. 21-22, the French finance ministry said Friday.

The ministry announced Thursday that the meeting, scheduled for Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, had been delayed by 15 days because of scheduling problems.

On Friday, a ministry spokesman said: "The G7/G8 meeting will take place on Friday, Feb. 21 and Saturday, Feb. 22.

France this year holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Eight, which includes Russia with the G7 most industrialized nations Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

French Economy and Finance Minister Francis Mer will receive at the ministry his US, British, Canadian, German, Italian, Japanese and Russian counterparts as well as central bank governors and leaders of international financial institutions, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The Russian representatives will participate in some, but not all, areas of the meeting, the ministry explained.

Topping an agenda defined by President Jacques Chirac will be an examination of the global economic situation, development issues and crime financing, the ministry said.

"Particular attention will be paid to financial stability and confidence in the international economic system," it noted.

Mer confirmed that the delay was the result of scheduling difficulties for some ministers, particularly incoming US Treasury Secretary John Snow, whose confirmation hearing before the Senate finance committee is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 28.

Snow will then need to be cleared by the committee and confirmed by a majority of the full Senate before he can take office.

Moreover, UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix is scheduled to present a report to the UN Security Council on Jan. 27, which is seen by some as a crucial date after which the US could take action over its threat of war against Iraq.

Thursday the finance ministry denied the delay was linked to current geopolitical tensions, in particular the upcoming UN weapons inspectors' report.

France will host a G8 summit on June 1-3 in the French spa of Evian-les-Bains. *AFP*

SMOKE billows from the chimneys of a waste incineration plant in Krefeld, western Germany. German economic growth slumped to a feeble 0.2 percent in 2002 and avoided a bigger decline only because of strong exports, according to official data on Thursday that underscored how Europe's largest economy is dragging down the rest of the continent. AP

Cable TV firms plan use of scramblers

By Abigail L. Ho

CABLE television operators are expected to shell out around P500 million to have their programs "scrambled" and provide their subscribers with decoder boxes to eliminate illegal taps that result in millions of pesos in losses each year.

Philippine Cable Television Association president J. Manuel Dabao said in an interview it was difficult for the cable television industry to determine exactly how many cable subscribers were in the country because of piracy.

There is at least one illegal subscriber for every paying subscriber, and this number can even be higher, he revealed.

Local cable operators have decided to reformat their program packages and shift to a "tiered" system that will put together selected channels in different groups instead of the existing all-in-one package that cable subscribers receive.

With the tiered system, there will be four packages that subscribers can choose from: starter, basic, premium and international.

The starter package comes with all the free-to-air channels, plus one channel each from different genres like sports, news, English movies, Tagalog movies and science.

Each succeeding package will have more channels in it and will be priced higher than the package before it.

ATI firms up sale of ₱2-B terminal

PORT operator Asian Terminals Inc. is hoping to conclude this quarter a deal to sell its Mariveles grain terminal to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. for over P2 billion.

ATI chair and president Richard Barclay told reporters during the launching of the Eva Macapagal Super Terminal that apart from the grain terminal, the company would not divest any more of its assets.

"We only entered into negotiations with this in the interest of synergy for both companies," Barclay said.

"We'll use the proceeds to continue our modernization plan for the Manila South Harbor," he said.

ATI's Mariveles grain terminal in Mariveles, Bataan has an average depth of 14.5 meters alongside its 217-meter long pier.

It can handle deliveries from Panamax vessels at a rate of 8,000 to 10,000 metric tons a day.

A second barge and ship loader has an outloading capacity of 300 metric tons an hour and accommodates smaller vessels of up to 6,000 dead weight tons.

The terminal has 20 vertical silos with a total capacity of 110,000 metric tons, as well as warehouses that can hold 70,000 metric tons. Inside the warehouses are bagging machines that can each handle 30 metric tons per hour.

ATI has an existing agreement with the Philippine Ports Authority and the Bataan provincial government to operate a bulk grain terminal in Mariveles for 15 years. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Subic distribution lines up for sale

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority is finally set to bid out next month the Subic Bay Freeport's electricity distribution lines to a private franchise.

The SBMA has so far pre-qualified about six or seven groups for the auction, including publicly listed Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz said.

"We're studying Subic's privatization of distribution lines," Aboitiz said.

"It's not so big. It's about 30-something megawatts, but we're looking at it on the long-term and we think that Subic, when investors come back, the growth will be quite healthy. That's what we're counting on," he said.

Electricity in the Subic Bay Freeport is currently supplied by the National Power Corporation, along with the back-up power provided by the two power plants of Enron Subic Power Corp.

These can produce a total generating capacity of 147.5 MW.

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Emission Testing ?

AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO AND SECRETARY MAR ROXAS REGARDING THE PLIGHT OF THE PRIVATE EMISSION TESTING CENTERS

WE BELIEVE AND SUPPORT THE "EMISSION TESTING PROGRAM" OF THE GOVERNMENT, that is why we heeded the invitation of DTI to invest in PETC. Notwithstanding the major investment required, we bite the bullet, if only to provide our citizens with cleaner air to breathe in order to preserve the health of our people. Furthermore, we were enticed of a respectable rate of return of investment by the government. Today, however, it seems this is not true and, therefore, we were duped as we are now confronted with several problems created for us by the government. To understand our sad and sorry state, please consider the following facts:

- The operational lifespan of PETC is only good for about 18 months, since by this time, the government sponsored Motor Vehicle Inspection System will start to operate. One must consider that our main income will come from inspections prior to registration, and taking this out from our business is tantamount to putting an end to the PETC program.

- DTI has been telling us that the MVIS program will not push through, or if ever, will come into play 5 years from now, but NEDA, DOTC and DENR records will show that government is fast tracking this project because the release of $300M loan from ADB hinges on government's compliance of putting up this MVIS.

- Uncontrolled issuance of accreditation certificates by DTI resulting to concentration of PETC operators in urban areas to the detriment of missionary areas. If this will not stop, the emission-testing program will fall because you cannot just implement the law selectively. Where will motorists go to have their vehicle inspected in missionary areas if there is no PETC around?

- According to DTI, the more PETC in one area the better for the people. Competition will lower the price and improve the quality of service. We believed the opposite. See what happened to the LTO Drug Testing Program. We do not need to elaborate what is happening because at this time the result is now an accepted fact. Logically, to protect our investment, we will not compete for profit, but we will compete for our survival. "Kapit sa patalim ika nga." We don't want this to happen. Hence, proliferation of PETC will defeat the purpose of the law.

- We were given by DTI and DOTC statistics on vehicle registration per LTO district office to base our decision whether investing in PETC is profitable. But when Secretary Elisea Gozon and Sec. Leandro Mendoza announced publicly that Public Utility Vehicles (buses, jeepneys, tricycles), which comprise 40% of vehicle population nationwide, should be tested by LTO instead by PETC, this decision further put our investment rate of return in big question.

- Given the situation where government blinks on threats of strike by transport groups, would you think proponents of MVIS would still invest in the project? Certainly, foreign investor will not gamble their money if government does not have the political will to implement the law. Remember, MVIS is not only emission testing but roadworthiness as well. Now, if no one will invest on MVIS, how will ADB release the much-needed loan of $300M to our government? What about other loans that require compliance to environmental standards?

- Why did DTI accredit car dealers to operate as PETC? If this is so, what would prevent bus companies, jeepney operators, repair shops, and the likes, to apply as PETC to test their own vehicles. We were told by DTI that if you are a PETC owner, you should not have conflict of interest in the emission testing industry. PETC owners should free themselves from other business except emission testing of vehicles. What is really the spirit of the program?

- To prevent disadvantageous competition, DOTC-LTO has provided us lane requirements with the end-in-view that if such requirement is filled-up, they will not authorize other applicants. Today, however, it seems that DOTC-LTO has violated its own rules.

- Record shows that 30% of the vehicle inspected failed in the emission test. At present, DTI has not accredited a single repair shop equipped with opacimeter and gas analyzer. Since there is none, most vehicle owners will be forced to go to a backyard repair shop, where there is no guarantee of passing the emission test at PETC after they have been repaired. Without the equipment, how can a repair shop ensure that the vehicle repaired pass the emission standards? Because of this, there is no guarantee of the quality of repair done to a vehicle.

Madam President, heavy air pollution is costing our country P21.5 Billion every year as reported by the World Bank. The health-related cost of dirty air is taking its wrath on our people. Aside from helping you reduce this loss, the hundreds of ancillary industries borne out of implementing the "Clean Air Act" will be contributing billions of pesos to the government coffers in the form of taxes. We plea for your help Madam President!

(Alliance of PETC owners in Luzon (APL) and Private Emission Testing Center Owners Assn. (PETCOA)

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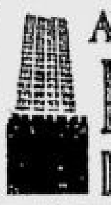

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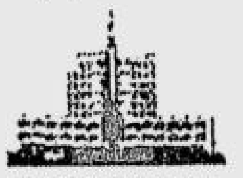

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MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8705554

OFC CLERK 09164591854 MARY

OFC STAFF 18-45 w/wo exp Direct Hire Olga 9134470

OFFICE STAFF 09204114147 ALISON

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WANTED: Stay-In Bantay For Computer Shop In V. Luna QC Call Odin at 921-5558

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Attn: Colleges/ Univ./ School Operators/ Owners/ Investor How would you like to operate the first Filipino-owned college or university in Canada? A well established private school in Canada, licensed since 1983 is seeking either a PURCHASER, a Majority Stockholder or Joint Venture. This is an opportunity of a lifetime. For more info email: best-care@sympatico.ca

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

NOTICE OF LOSS

Alabang Country Club Inc. Stock Certificate No. A-2916 issued to Darosa Hodlings Inc. If no contest in 1 year, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Jan. 13, 20 & 27, 2003)

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How would you like to operate the first Filipino-owned college or university in Canada? A well established private school in Canada, licensed since 1983, is seeking either a Purchaser, a majority stockholder or joint venture. This is an opportunity of a lifetime. For more information,
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TEACHERS (Elementary Education)
- ✓ must be single; 25 years old and below
- ✓ female
- ✓ 2 years teaching experience; can draw, sing & dance with children

SECRETARIES
- ✓ female, college graduate
- ✓ 2 years work experience
- ✓ computer literate, knows shorthand

DOMESTIC HELPERS
- ✓ female, 24 years old and above
- ✓ preferably with working experience abroad

MALAYSIA

DOMESTIC HELPERS
- ✓ female, 25-38 years old
- ✓ 2 years work experience
- ✓ willing to work abroad

Please submit your resumé/bio-data and other credentials at:

INTERWORLD PLACEMENT CENTER, INC.
Rm. 305 Ermita Bldg., Arquiza St.
Ermita, Manila
POEA LICENSE NO.: POEA-453-LB-121201-R

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AIRCON SUPERVISOR
- must possess min. 3 yrs. Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
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- must possess a Technician's certificate
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- must possess a Tradesman's certificate
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(with or without CGFNS)

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AM Session: 8:00 - 12:00 | PM Session: 1:00 - 5:00

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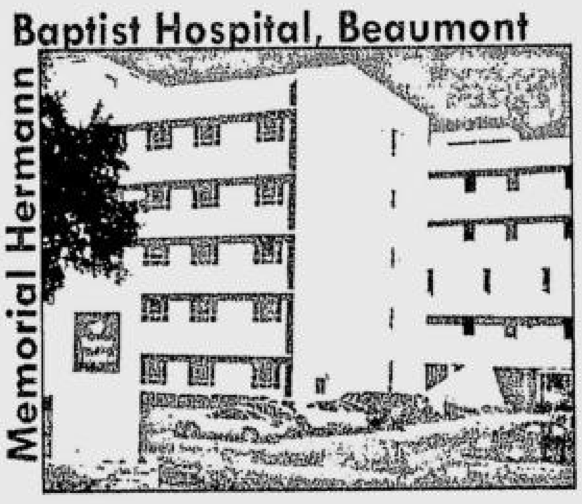
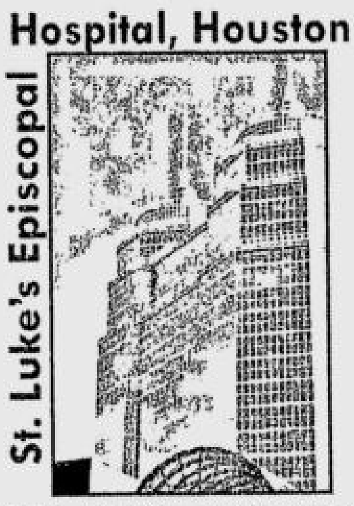
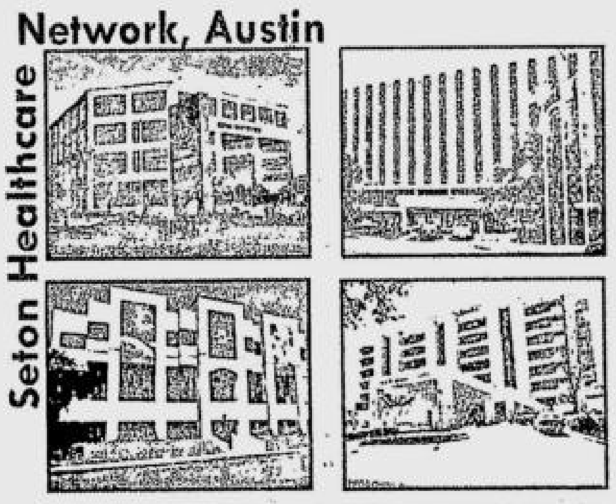
Please bring the following requirements and be ready for an interview:
(1) detailed resume, (2) letters of recommendation/certificate of employment, (3) passport-sized colored photos; photocopies of (4) transcript of records, (5) nursing diploma, (6) PRC ID card, board rating and board certificate; if available (7) CGFNS certificate/scoresheet or NCLEX certificate/US RN license, (8) TOEFL & TSE Score sheet, (9) Passport, (10) Birth Certificate, (11) Marriage Certificate



Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital, Beaumont



St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 926-4501 to 09
Cable Address: "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila
TIN #000724616

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is inviting offer to purchase by way of sealed bids the property described below:

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY
48,749 Square Meter TCT No. 12840 with improvements	Town Proper, Alaminos, Laguna

Bid documents shall be issued upon payment of P5,000.00 which is non-refundable, from January 27 to February 18, 2003 at the Office of the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PCA R&D Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

Sealed bid proposals shall be submitted and dropped at the Bid Box located at the Office of the Disposal Committee Secretariat.

Sealed bid proposals shall be opened on February 27, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at 6th Floor Executive Lounge, PCA R&D Building Diliman, Quezon City.

The sale of the property shall be on "As-is, Where is" basis.

PCA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any defect and to accept such bid proposals considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARTURO J. LIQUETE
Chairman
PCA Disposal Committee

(PDI – Jan. 18, 19 & 20, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
Quezon City

ISO 9002

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR

Guimaras Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(GUIMELCO)
Jordan, Guimaras

Qualifications
Applicants may be male or female, must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old, college graduate (in Business Management, Accounting/Finance, Engineering or Behavioral Sciences) preferably with Master's degree in Business Management Administration or Industrial Management, and must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience.

STARTING SALARY P15,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained at the Cooperative Operations Department, 3rd Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Government Center, Diliman, Quezon City, or at the Regional Electrification Office VI, Iloilo City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on 03 February 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO G. SILVA
Administrator

(PDI - Jan. 12 & 13, 2003)

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

NOTICE OF INITIATION OF INVESTIGATION ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE IMPOSITION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTY AGAINST IMPORTATION OF SULFURIC ACID (HS CODE 2807.0000) FROM JAPAN (ANTI-DUMPING CASE NO. 01-2003)

ON 7 JANUARY 2003, DTI OFFICIALLY RECEIVED A PROPERLY DOCUMENTED APPLICATION FROM THE PHILIPPINE SULFURIC ACID INDUSTRY REPRESENTED BY LMG CHEMICALS CORPORATION (LMG) FOR THE INITIATION OF AN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF SULFURIC ACID (HS CODE 2807.0000) FROM JAPAN. THE PROTEST ALLEGED THAT SULFURIC ACID IS BEING IMPORTED FROM JAPAN AT DUMPED PRICES AND THAT AS A RESULT THEREOF CAUSES MATERIAL INJURY TO THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY PRODUCING LIKE ARTICLE IN TERMS OF DECLINED SALES, PRODUCTION, CAPACITY UTILIZATION AND PRICE UNDERCUTTING AND DEPRESSION.

THE DTI, ACTING UNDER PARAGRAPH A OF SECTION 301 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE AS AMENDED BY RA 8752 HAS MADE AN EVALUATION OF THE PROTEST AND FOUND REASONABLE GROUNDS TO INITIATE AN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON SULFURIC ACID FROM JAPAN. THE PERIOD OF INVESTIGATION FOR DUMPING IS FOR THE WHOLE YEARS OF 2000 AND 2001 WHILE THE PERIOD OF INVESTIGATION FOR INJURY IS FROM 1999 TO 2001.

THE COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR THE INVESTIGATION IS THE DAY ON WHICH THIS NOTICE OF INITIATION IS PUBLISHED IN TWO (2) NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION.

WHEREFORE, IN VIEW THEREOF, ANY INTERESTED PARTIES WHO MAY WISH TO SUBMIT THEIR COMMENTS AND POSITION ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE IMPOSITION OF ANTI-DUMPING DUTY AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF SULFURIC ACID FROM JAPAN ARE REQUESTED TO DIRECT THEIR REPRESENTATION TO THE BUREAU OF IMPORT SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, 3RD FLOOR, OPPEN BUILDING, #349 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

13 JANUARY 2003

MAR Roxas
Secretary

(PDI – January 20, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION

PHILPOST

PREQUALIFICATION BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
FOR PHILPOST BOND FLOTATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Postal Corporation invites interested and qualified Financial Advisor/Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter for the proposed contracting of services for its Bond Offering for improvement of its operational capability and financial viability.

The pertinent Terms of Reference (TOR) which forms part of this notice can be secured from the Secretariat, Legal Service Office, PPC Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila from **January 14 up to February 3, 2003.**

Pre-Bid Conference will be on February 4, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Business Operations Center, 3F Central Office Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Submission of bid proposals will be until the close of office hours on **February 10, 2003.**

Opening of Bids will be on **February 11, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the Business Operations Center, 3F Central Office Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Philpost reserves the right to re-bid or reject any or all bids, waive any formalities or infirmities and accept the bid considered most advantageous to the corporation.

Participation in the bidding is not a guaranty for an award of the contract.

(Sgd.) ASUNCION P. LORETO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Jan 15 20 & 27 2003)

LEYTE V ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 162, Ormoc City 6541
Tel. Nos. (053) 561-4075 / (053) 561-4111

INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V), Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte, invites all eligible contractors to submit bids for the supply of labor and materials for the construction of a 69 KV line and installation of a 5-MVA substation in Tabango, Leyte.

Bid documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) starting **January 21, 2003.**

Pre-bid conference will be held on **January 28, 2003** at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sealed bids will be received by the Pre-bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) at LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte on **February 7, 2003** at 1:30 in the afternoon, at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

LEYECO V reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligation whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOVENAL R. ALESNA
General Manager

(PDI- Jan 18 & 20, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2003

OBITUARIES

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DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"A rare and great light has gone out, but one that has made all others shine brighter."

Antonio Boban Yu

November 21, 1927 - January 17, 2003

Beloved husband to ROSARIO CHAM YU; father to ADRIAN & TESS, BRENDAN & MARGARET, CHARLEMAGNE & MERIAM, DEXTER & JESSICA, ELAINE, FERDINAND, GIOVANNI & ALMA; grandfather to HARVIN, IRVIN, JUSTIN, KYRA, LAUREN, MARTIN, NICCOLO, OLIVER, PHILIP and QUERVIN; friends to many, to all of whom he was an extraordinary inspiration. He shall be profoundly missed.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Chinese Cemetery on Friday, January 24, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

"Our Agnes of God will be cradled in the arms of the angels and saints in heaven forever."
She is generosity-personified. A life well lived...
Surely, she will be terribly missed.

AGNES TAMBOT dela CRUZ

February 3, 1957 - January 18, 2003

Her beloved husband **DOSENG**; children **KRISTOFFER**, **RON** and **ANNA** request the pious readers to pause for a while and say a little prayer to this well-loved person for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, Barangay San Vicente Centro, Alaminos City, Pangasinan.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens Crematorium, Dagupan City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass, St. Joseph Cathedral, Alaminos City, Pangasinan.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."
Matthew 10:39

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
For He has looked with favor on His lowly servant"

Our Dearly Beloved Mama...

AQUILINA "Eleng" ANGELES PARADA

now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of the Lord on January 18, 2003 at the age of 65.

Her loving husband LUIS; children LEONY, LALAINE and JHUN; children-in-law and grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their family residence, No. 3210 J. Garcia St., Banga, Plaridel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2003 at St. James Memorial Cemetery, Plaridel, Bulacan after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

GLORIA "Glory" VILLANUEVA GENEROSO

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on 19 January 2003 at the age of 84.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on 22 January 2003, Wednesday, at Holy Cross Memorial Park, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

Please omit flowers.

"I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

FLORENCIO CALMA RUIZ

Peacefully joined the Lord on January 18, 2003 at the age of 58.

His bereaved family: wife ZENY; children IRIS, BRYAN, MARISOL.
His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 25, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

So dearly loved...
So fondly remembered...
So truly missed...

In Loving Memory of
"An Officer and a Gentleman"

COL. JUSTO A. AURELLANO, PAF (RET.)

February 29, 1916 – January 20, 2000
A Loving Husband, Best Papa, Greatest Grandpa, Our Friend.

Gregorian Masses will be offered
@ 6 a.m., Jan. 20-Feb.19

San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish
Neptune St., Congressional Rd.
Quezon City

Holy Mass @ the **Holy Family Chapel**
GSIS Village, Project 8,
Quezon City at 8 a.m.

Our Lady of Fatima Church
Sta. Mesa @ 6:45 p.m.

Feming Aurellano and children request relatives and friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

May he rest in Peace.

Carmen Davenport Barraca vda. de Ang

October 23, 1923 - January 13, 2003

With profound sorrow and pain, we announce her demise on January 13, 2003 after a brief bout with cancer. Her remains will be viewed at the Iglesia ni Cristo Los Angeles Chapel on January 17 and 20, then flown to Manila, arriving on January 23. The wake will be at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and interment will be in the morning of January 26 at Eternal Gardens, Novaliches, Quezon City.

She leaves behind her grieving children: Fernando, Josefina, Erlinda (Ang Chua), Jun, Teresita (Ang See), Carmelita (Ang Tan), Virgilio, Richard (deceased), Jocelyn, Marilyn (Ang dela Rosa), Carmen (Ang Jimenez); daughters-in-law: Nene, Nia, Elsa, Khay; sons-in-law: Manuel, Chinben (deceased), Johnny, Anchet, Homer; 21 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

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Epson's blueprint for printing in digital age

By Leo Magno

AOKI

LIKE other companies in the information technology industry, printing and digital imaging company Epson of Japan is adjusting its roadmap to navigate its way through inflection points being created by new digital imaging trends.

At the top of this list of inflection points is the advent of consumer-accessible digital imaging solutions which allow people to take digital snapshots from cellular phones and new cameras which no longer use the traditional roll of film. These images are no longer stored in voluminous photo albums and are instead being stored digitally on hard disks or tiny storage devices. They are even shared globally as a stream of electrons. But contrary to so-called visionaries who foresee a paperless future where all media will become digital, Epson sees even more opportunities for printer manufacturers with the advent of digital imaging. These images, Epson believes, will still eventually need to be printed out.

Take the scanner market for example. If you have a digital camera, chances are you no longer need to scan film-processed photo since your photo is already in digital format. Would this, then, spell the end for the scanner?

Epson sees the global scanning market declining from 17 million in 2002 to anywhere between 14 and 16 million this year. This decline is attributed to flat PC sales and the increasing demand for digital still cameras and all-in-one devices which integrate the scanner with the printer and the photocopying device. However, Epson sees an opportunity behind this trend, and is in fact launching new products amid a shrinking scanner market.

A survey of Epson scanner users revealed that, despite the presence of digital cameras, Epson scanner owners still use their devices to digitize 35-mm film and photographs processed traditionally. The internal research also shows that Epson scanner owners and buyers already own digital still cameras or have plans of purchasing one.

"So it is likely that digital still cameras and traditional film cameras are being used for different purposes," says Kazunori Aoki, assistant director for IT products division at Epson. "All-in-one scanner-printer-copiers do not offer photo and film scanning like the traditional scanners, so we believe scanners can co-exist with digital cameras."

Aoki, however, admits that the scanner market is being reduced by the popularity of the digital camera, but stresses that as long as their customers are looking for scanners, Epson would fill in that demand.

While everyone is sleeping due to the perceived drop in the usage of scanners, Aoki says Epson will try to snatch one of the Top 3 slots in South Asia with a market share of 20 percent. Epson is now fourth with a 12-percent market share in South Asia, which includes the Asean nations and the Indian sub-continent (from Pakistan to Nepal).

Another market affected by emerging new technologies is the all-in-one market, which consists of devices which feature a scanner, printer and copier all in one device. In 1999, Epson launched three all-in-one products behind competitors such as Hewlett-Packard. However, the market wasn't ready yet for such products because of the high price point. In 2001, the all-in-one market stood at 3.3 million units, a figure projected to jump to 10 million units this year.

"Today, the market looks ready to accept all-in-ones, so this is another good opportunity for us to re-enter the market," says Aoki. "All-in-ones will eat into low-end inkjet and scanner sales in the Soho and SME space, but we don't expect the professional and corporate markets to be affected."

Epson's new business objective for all-in-ones is to gain a 15-percent market share this year and jack this up to 25 percent next year. This sits well for Epson Philippines since roughly half of all-in-one and photo printers of the company are manufactured in the Philippines.

Epson's biggest adjustment to the digital imaging inflection point has resulted in what the company calls its "total digital photo strategy." While competitors such as Hewlett-Packard, Canon and Kodak are venturing into end-to-end solutions from digital image capture (cameras) to output (software and photo printers), Epson is avoiding direct participation in the digital camera production market. Instead, it is partnering with digital camera leaders such as Nikon and Olympus and is participating in open standards bodies such as the Direct Printing System standard with companies led by Canon and Kodak.

"The digital camera business is very tough, so we have a different overall digital photo strategy for Epson," Aoki says.

Part of this strategy is to accept digital images regardless of vendor and storage platforms. While Sony is pushing its proprietary Memory Stick to store digital images, others are storing digital photos on compact flash cards and smart media. For some camera and printer manufacturers such as Canon, this poses no problem since users can print photos directly from a Canon digital still camera to a Canon printer—the first company to do so. For others such as Hewlett-Packard, however, they were forced to integrate slots into the printer to accommodate different storage media. Needless to say, the lack of a standard in the storage media space is leaving both consumers and manufacturers playing cat-and-mouse. Epson prefers to be neutral in the middle of it all.

"When you can do direct printing using open standards, it wouldn't matter which storage medium you use because you just connect the camera straight to the printer via USB," Aoki says.

And so, when Epson launched on Thursday a new line of printers featuring a new ink technology, the company also mapped out its strategy amid an increasingly confusing digital imaging market. Whether this was by design or by accident, in the end Epson showed that—like any other company in the information technology industry—it has to evolve along with technology to survive.

Name of Epson ink technology may cause confusion in RP

IT is actually quite revolutionary. Where can you find an inkjet-printed, full-color output that remains vivid even after 70 years of exposure to light? Where can you find a full-color printout that remains smudge-free even if it gets wet?

Fortunately for Epson, it was the first to incorporate such a unique chemical composition into their printer ink which lent them the above-mentioned qualities. Unfortunately for them, the Japanese company named this technology after a popular dishwashing product in the Philippines.

Epson has introduced the Epson Stylus C82, which the company is positioning as its new flagship product. It will be the first to use Epson's patented DuraBrite ink. In the Philippines, DuraBrite is a brand synonymous with steel wool, dishwashing pads and abrasive pads used to clean pots and pans.

And so, while DuraBrite ink makes Epson Stylus C82 printouts smudge-free even when wet, the other DuraBrite in the Philippines is known as a workhorse in the wet and oily environments of the kitchen sink.

This, however, does not mean that DuraBrite is going down the drain. It is a revolutionary pigment-based ink that does not deteriorate as much as dye-based ink when exposed to light and gas. Each microscopic ink droplet is coated with a transparent resin that makes it adhere to paper. And, since DuraBrite is pigment-based, it remains on the surface of the paper unlike dye ink which gets absorbed through to the paper's middle layer. This makes it ideal for double-sided printing since the ink does not bleed all the way through. The end result: the specially formulated DuraBrite ink delivers a 40-percent quality improvement over traditional ink.

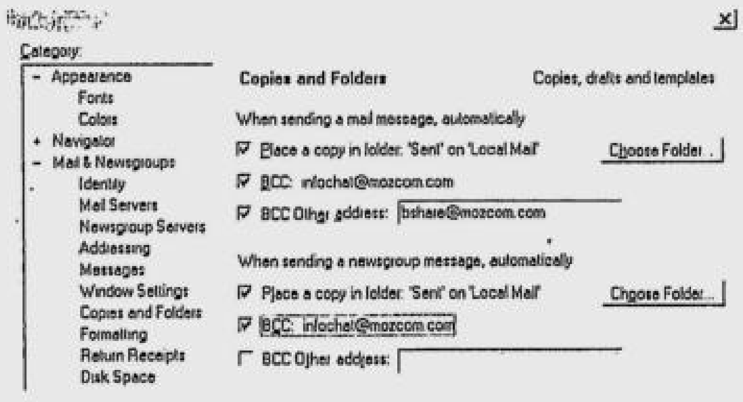
Not only is Epson's new ink technology fade- and water-resistant. DuraBrite also makes printing more economical since it employs individual ink cartridges. This gives users low cost of ownership especially since the ink cartridges have higher yield, or more ink pound-for-pound.

Epson launched DuraBrite in Asia four days ago. In the first week of February, the C82 will be launched in the Philippines. DuraBrite ink technology being the C82's main differentiator, how will Epson launch the product with a name which Filipinos have long associated with kitchen sink scrubbing pads?

"Honestly, we haven't addressed that (problem) yet," says Siew Jin Kiat, regional manager for product marketing at Epson.

A lot is riding on DuraBrite since Epson plans to use the technology for most of its future products. But when the C82's advertisements come out in the Philippines in the first week of February, it would be interesting to see if the message of an advanced, resin-coated micro droplet of ink that sticks to paper would also stick to the minds of Filipino consumers. Either this or what would stick to Filipino consumers' minds when they read the word "DuraBrite" would be the image of a scrubbing pad washing away sticky grease off pots and pans.

Leo Magno



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Auto BCC in Netscape Messenger

POWERTIPS

By Jerry Liao

BCC or blind carbon copies are used to send a copy of an e-mail to a recipient without any of the other recipients knowing who else got a copy of the e-mail. You can do this automatically with Netscape Messenger.

(1) Open Netscape Messenger.

(2) Click on Edit / Preferences.

(3) Select the Mail & Newsgroup category, then select Copies and Folders.

(4) Under the "When sending a mail message, automatically" section, to BCC yourself, click on the first BCC checkbox.

(5) To BCC another e-mail address, click the BCC Other checkbox and type the full e-mail address.

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Software piracy watchdog backs measure regulating optical media

By Erwin G. Oliva

A SOFTWARE watchdog has urged the Philippine government to pass a pending measure regulating the use of optical media in the country.

The Business Software Alliance (BSA) said that the passage and subsequent enforcement of the Optical Media Act would "definitely reduce piracy rates" in the Philippines, said Jeffrey Hardee, BSA vice president and regional director for Asia, during a briefing in Manila.

Similar measures had been passed in other Asian countries, including China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Macau, he added. Only a few Asian countries like the Philippines are presently without laws regulating the use of all forms of optical media.

The bill aims to hit the problem of piracy at its very root, as it aims to curb piracy by limiting the materials used to propagate intellectual property-infringing content.

If passed, the measure would require all manufacturers of optical media in the Philippines, as well as importers of such data storage media, to secure licenses from the government.

The measure would also institutionalize a source identification code system.

The source identification code would be embedded on CDs, thereby allowing the government to identify those containing infringed content from those that are legal. Proponents of the bill expect that this would reduce illegal mass-manufacture of copies of music, movies and software in the country.

"The bill covers all copyrighted work including software," Hardee said.

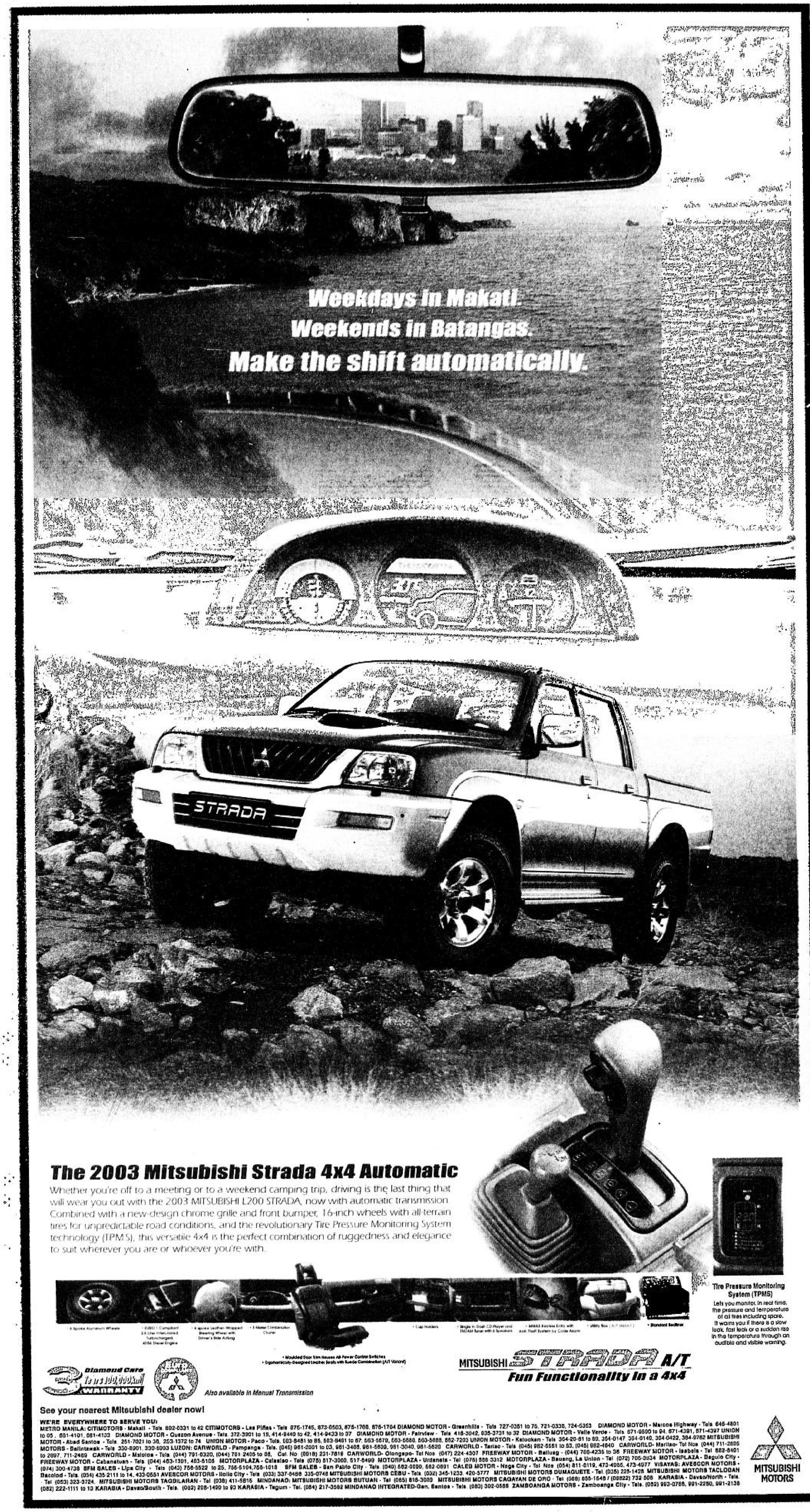
The proposed law would also dissolve the Videogram Regulatory Board and create in its place the Optical Media Board, which would be placed under the Office of the President.

US Assistant Secretary of Commerce William Lash recently criticized the Philippine government's failure to curb piracy, which he pointed out cost US companies over $116 million in revenues last year.

Lash expressed disappointment after a visit to Greenhills, San Juan, where pirated VCDs and DVDs of Hollywood movies and software were being sold openly for $1 upwards.

Lash said the Philippines has yet to convict a single person for piracy, even though 280 arrests were made last year.

Legal counsels of Microsoft in the Philippines admitted that piracy cases in the country often face delays, and have often been settled out of court. Microsoft lawyers said the Philippine legal system places high priority on constitutional rights to due process, thus some copyright owners have to wait up to seven years before their cases are resolved.



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BRINGER OF BAD NEWS

Philippines on the hunt for a saboteur

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCIAL saboteurs are on the loose and why they pounce on a small, emerging market like the Philippines with a seeming intent to impair a foreign borrowing is a puzzle that government officials could not yet piece together.

Efforts are being exerted to unmask those responsible for the bad press about the Philippines dumped on foreign financial markets two weeks ago.

Sources say the leads point to an offshore investment bank and a powerful global financial institution behind the smear campaign.

Both are of course, disowning culpability.

Three days before the government launched a $500-million bond issue in the global arena last Jan. 10, news of the Philippines' problem with statistical trade data hit a particular foreign publication.

An even more prominent follow up came out in Jan. 8 that sent the country's money wizards on a spin and the spreads on Philippine sovereign bonds soaring.

Reports implied that the Philippines had embellished its trade data by understating imports and overstating its trade surplus since year 2000.

Statistical glitch

Much of the statistical glitch arose from the failure of tax-free economic zones to capture the import components on electronics. But while the deficiency made imports look smaller than it actually were and thus showed that the trade balance was heavily tilted in the country's favor, it also created a perception of a stronger-than-actual capital flight.

Since the imports were not correctly reflected, the numbers were interpreted as outflow, which should not have been the case.

Government officials complain that the issue on the statistical glitch had been brought up by several investment banks in the past but was never a banner material for fastidious newspapers.

More than curiosity

This is why authorities suspect that something more than curiosity was involved.

Why an old story was prominently recycled and why it was done days before a Philippine fund-raising exercise raised a lot of powerful eyebrows.

To say Philippine officials were upset is an understatement.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho who rarely shows an emotion repeatedly admits he is very sore with how such an old issue was blown out of proportion."

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura says he has taken some high-level foreign officials to task and discussions are still ongoing to pin down the blame.

Even National Treasurer Sergio Edeza admits he is on a witch hunt to uncover the ones responsible for costing the government a few million pesos more on its recent offshore debt issue.

Sweet revenge

If it is an underwriter, Edeza promises a sweet revenge in the form of exclusion in succeeding sovereign transactions.

The trade accounting issue, according to Camacho, had cost the government an additional 25 basis points in the rate it has to pay investors.

The coupon rate of 9.509 percent was derived from a 10-year benchmark rate of 3.978 percent and a spread of 5.53 percentage points compared to a spread of 4.93 points in November for a similar bond deal.

Roughly, the half-a-percentage point translates to some P70 million in additional interest the government must pay the bondholders. Although sovereigns normally deal in denominations of billions, millions in pesos would have gone a long way for a struggling economy mired in deficit problem like the Philippines.

Buenaventura explains that the government had formed a five-member team last year to pin down the accurate import data since year 2000.

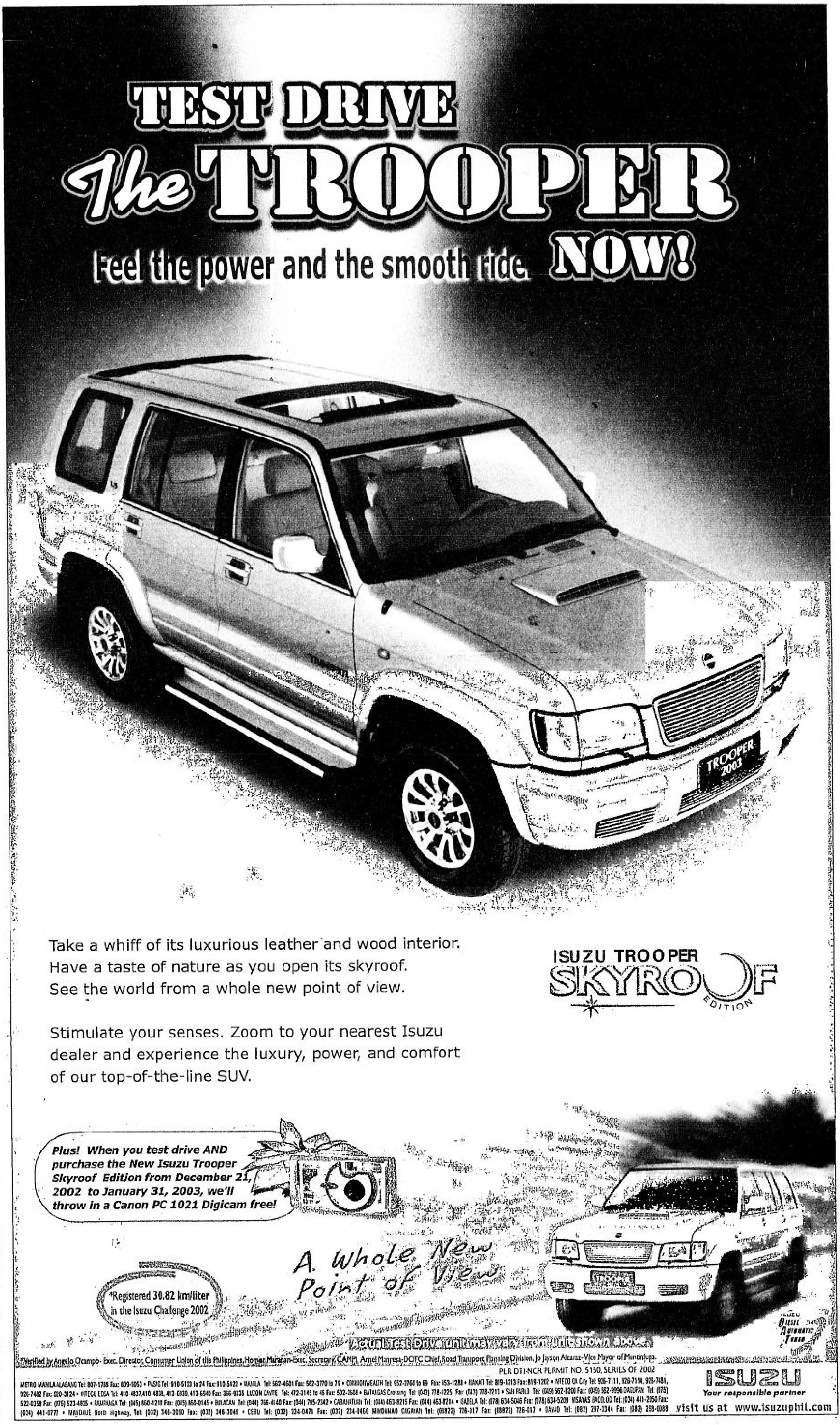
The government was alerted to the problem in year 2000 when the current account surplus hit an all-time high of $9 billion. A task force was readily formed to investigate the problem and the financial community particularly the International Monetary Fund and the credit rating agencies were immediately informed.

The National Statistics Office released the revised trade data last Wednesday.

Based on the NSO data, the imports in 2000 and 2001 should have been $34.491 billion and $33.057 billion against $31.387 billion and $29.551 billion.

The trade balance was similarly adjusted to

PHILIPPINES/ C2



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How to pick a winning investment manager

MAPping THE FUTURE

Jose Jesus Deduque and Rowena Agnes

PEOPLE often ask us what we look for when we view investment managers. More to the point, how do we know which ones are most likely to outperform in future? Helping our clients to identify tomorrow's winners is, after all, a core service that we provide.

It should not surprise anyone to learn that past performance rates fairly low in our list of factors that go into identifying good managers.

Instead, we focus on "critical success factors" in the three main areas that we believe are vital for a manager's future success—business management, people and investment process.

Critical success factors

According to the P&I Watson Wyatt Survey, approximately 20 percent of the world's largest 500 investment managers were involved in some sort of corporate activity in the year 2000. Due to this frenzied pace of merger activity in the industry in recent times, it is becoming increasingly difficult to identify which organizations offer a genuinely stable business environment.

Although there are clear advantages to having a financially strong parent to provide the required resources for systems and remuneration, this can cause problems. Often, mergers or acquisitions are driven by the parent company for non-investment reasons and such activity is difficult to predict.

In addition, the investment management industry has moved on significantly in terms of the quality of the investment processes that are typically in place.

While five years ago, an investment manager simply boasting a well thought out and structured investment process could claim a genuine sustainable competitive advantage, this is now no longer the case. Due to greater access to information and greater processing power, arguably it has become increasingly difficult to sustain a competitive advantage in the investment process alone.

Given this background of an increasingly unpredictable business environment and a reducing length of time that a typical investment process can sustain a competitive advantage, we believe that the quality of people in the firm is the most important factor in assessing an investment manager.

"Winning the war for talent" has therefore become vital.

It is also clear that in order to keep pace with change in the investment manager world, a continuous manager research program needs to be carried out. To put this into context, Watson Wyatt currently has approximately 150 people involved in manager research in 12 countries around the world. We put an enormous amount of effort into our research, with teams dedicated to specific asset classes and specialist areas, as well as to individual investment management organizations.

We form our view of investment managers by talking to them face-to-face. Last year, we held approximately 2,000 meetings with managers in a formal research context, but held many multiples of this with managers through client situations.

Many insights are also gained from sitting in on managers' internal meetings as a 'fly on the wall', such as meetings in which portfolio managers discuss a particular stock with the analysts.

Research

Our research is based on the belief that many investment managers do exhibit skill, and that we can identify these managers using a combination of art and science. We also believe that the key to identifying successful managers—and so producing superior investment results for our clients—lies in thoroughly researching investment management organizations, and not simply in crunching historical data.

This is because studies have shown that an active manager's past performance is not, by itself, a guide to future returns. Indeed, under various plausible assumptions, it can be shown that it takes approximately 12 years of past performance data in order to prove skill statistically through past performance alone.

Of course, over a 12-year period, it is highly unlikely that the same investment process and people will remain in place, particularly in today's environment.

Investment management firms are constantly changing in response to market conditions and their own staffing requirements, and successful performance inevitably attracts new funds and new clients.

This, of course, affects managers' ability to deliver returns as this growth tends to result either in a dilution of the quality of people, requires a more bureaucratic structure or affects their ability to implement the process successfully.

In other words, skill is very difficult to sustain. As a result, we look at performance numbers more with an eye to understanding how and why managers achieved their track record. Was it skill, or was it luck? What has been the impact of particular individuals on the performance record? Has a manager's performance been purely down to a value or growth bias? Can we expect the manager to repeat this performance in future? Many years of manager research have led us to conclude that the real drivers behind consistently good numbers are the so-called "soft" factors—business, people and process.

1. Business

A key factor to look for is those profitable businesses that have strong leadership and have set out clear strategic goals. Preferably, investment firms will give their portfolio managers a fair degree of autonomy so that they can exploit their skills.

Firms should have realistic plans for growth, and the ability to control it, plus good administration and IT support. Particularly close attention needs to be paid to how a firm rewards its employees, particularly in the current environment, where many individuals are leaving the traditional investment management firms to join hedge fund outfits.

2. People

When we research the people equation, we look at a very broad range of variables. Quality is the most obvious one. The firm should employ experienced, smart professionals who share a team spirit and common beliefs, and enjoy their work. We also look at who the key decision-makers are in the firm, and how accessible they are.

We attend internal meetings to observe the level of debate and interaction between managers and analysts. The way client meetings are conducted also gives us important information on the strength of the people involved.

3. Process

As for the investment process, it should fit comfortably with the firm's stated investment philosophy, the people in place, and the volume of assets under management. Every team member should know their role in the process, and there should be clear accountability and understanding of risks.

Above all, when looking at a firm's investment process, we try to pinpoint sources of competitive advantage. As the investment world grows ever more competitive, it becomes more important for managers to have an adaptable process to enable them to continue to outperform their peers.

This again relates back to having the quality of people capable of ensuring the process is adapted to be "ahead of the game."

At the same time, gaining and sustaining an edge is becoming ever more difficult for various reasons. Firstly, information is readily accessible to all managers at the same time, and thanks to vastly improved computer processing power, it is difficult to argue that anyone can crunch numbers better or faster than anyone else. There are also more players in the market, such as hedge funds, busily arbitraging out inefficiencies and other sources of competitive advantage. The growth in quantitative strategies and academic research on markets and prices has had a similar effect.

However, pockets of process competitive advantage still exist. One obvious one is the presence of a strong valuation methodology, which provides true insights into a company's business model. Another is an awareness of the risk characteristics within a portfolio, such as style and size bias, and a process for managing the exposure to these areas in order to ensure consistency with the manager's philosophy.

Recently, volatile markets have also focussed attention on developing proprietary models to "stress test" portfolios in different market environments.

Summary

To sum up, we believe that identifying tomorrow's winners depends on business, people, and process. These days, time is focused more and more on people issues and valuation techniques, and on checking that investment managers have the depth and quality of people and the superior investment processes they need to outperform their peers. (*Deduque is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and managing director of Watson Wyatt Philippines, Inc. (WPPI). Agnes is director of WPPI . The MAP Secretariat and the authors may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)*

Philippines on the hunt for a saboteur

From page C1

$3.587 billion and a deficit of $907 million in 2000 and 2001 from $6.691 billion and $2.599 billion.

Instead of a $9.189 billion and $4.025 billion in current account surpluses in 2000 and 2001, the surplus should only have been $5.87 billion and $305 million, says the BSP chief.

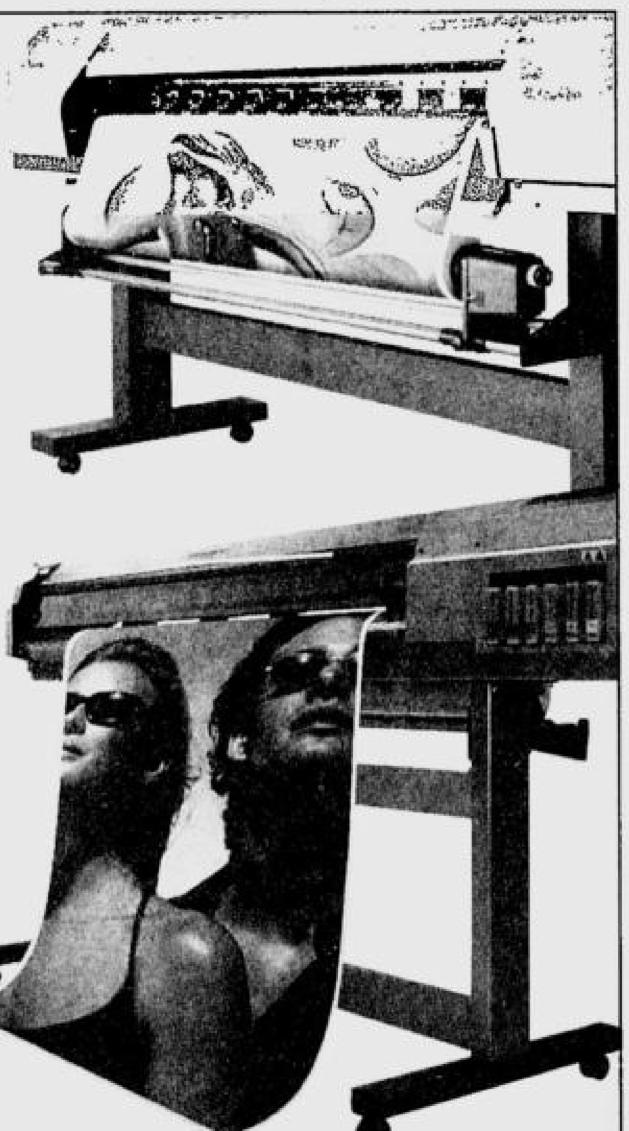
As a result, capital flight in years 2000 and 2001 were overstated by $3.103 billion and $3.506 billion arising from the failure to capture the correct imports data that were instead interpreted as outflow in short-term capital.

Even the level of errors and omissions which some analysts also attribute as a form of capital flight should have been only $200 million each in the two-year period instead of reaching $3.5 billion in 2000 and more than $1 billion in 2001.

The net outflow in capital and financial accounts should have been $3.366 billion instead of $6.469 billion in 2000 and $224 million instead of $3.73 billion in 2001.

The central bank chief believes no major revisions in the 2002 numbers are to take place considering that the review of the country's trade numbers was already ongoing last year.

Foreign investors are more concerned on the impression that there is capital flight. And this should have been addressed by the revised trade data," notes Buenaventura.



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Eight-digit salary club to drop members

NEW YORK—The exclusive club of executives who rake in more than $10 million a year in salary and bonus is about to kick out a few members—as some corporate leaders saw their pay and bonuses drop in 2002.

Several executives who took home a bundle in 2001—including Apple Computer's Steven Jobs and the chief of Tyco International's health-care unit—could lose their club membership with their pay dropping in 2002.

According to a study done for Reuters by compensation analysis firm Equilar, 17 executives earned more than $10 million in combined salary and bonus in 2001, the latest year for which figures are available.

The analysis, which excludes forms of long-term pay such as stock options, used information reported by companies in annual shareholder letters known as proxy statements. Companies operating under a calendar year ended last month will be filing proxies with details on 2002 pay, starting in a few weeks.

While the list of best-paid executives may change, calls for reform of executive compensation in general are not likely to subside. A string of scandals documenting corporate largesse toward top executives —sometimes at the expense of shareholders—has strengthened the movement to reign in pay.

Air jobs

Topping 2001's list was Apple Computer's Jobs, who received a "special executive bonus" of $43.5 million in the form of an aircraft. For 2002, when Apple's stock dropped about 37 percent, Jobs' cash compensation could be as low as $1, the company has indicated in regulatory filings.

Ranking seventh on the list in 2001 with a $12.5 million package was Richard Meelia, the head of the healthcare unit of conglomerate Tyco International.

The new leadership of Tyco, whose former chief Dennis Kozlowski made headlines for company-paid extravagances such as a $15,000 umbrella stand, distanced itself from Meelia's 2001 pay package in a statement to Reuters.

The company said compensation will be capped in 2003, keeping the heads of operating units "more in line" with others in the industry.

It would take a significant drop to bring Meelia's pay in line with that of other comparable company executives. Johnson & Johnson, the health-care behemoth, paid its chief executive only $3.1 million in salary and bonus in 2001. The pay differential came even as Johnson & Johnson stock withstood market declines to jump more than 10 percent. *Reuters*

La Salle to honor Cory and Ninoy

THE DE La Salle Professional Schools, Inc. Graduate School of Business will honor former President Corazon C. Aquino and the late Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. with the launching of the Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino Distinguished Professorial Chair in Business Management and the Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Distinguished Professorial Chair in Corporate Social Responsibility and Governance on Jan. 23 at the DLSU Graduate School of Business campus at the RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

The professorial chairs will honor the former president and the late senator's commitment to the role of private industry in nation building, ethical and good governance and give added recognition to their steadfast belief that the practice of management should ultimately result in the improvement of the human condition. The Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. professorial chair will serve as the focal point and inspiration for further research and perpetuate Senator Aquino's efforts in promoting meaningful corporate social responsibility and good governance in his lifetime.

Philip Ella Juico, Dean of the DLSU Graduate School of Business, will be the recipient of the Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino Distinguished Professorial Chair in Business Management.

Juico's impressive track record and wide spectrum of expertise in business and development management, agrarian and rural development, strategic planning, sports development and journalism made him the ideal candidate to receive the administrative chair.

Most notable among Juico's achievements as a government technocrat is laying the administrative and organizational groundwork for the implementation of the comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program when he was Secretary of Agrarian Reform from 1987 to 1989.

In sports development and administration, Juico is credited with, among others, orchestrating the preparation of the first ever Master/Sector Plan for Philippine sports which seeks to systematize and rationalize sports development at all levels. The plan was started and completed during Juico's stint as chair of the Philippine Sports Commission from 1995 to 1998.

As a business manager and consultant, Juico has been involved in various aspects of business development in a wide range of private companies and corporations. With Juico's 25 years in the private sector, his services have been sought by private and government agencies and non-government organizations both in the Philippines and overseas.

Juico was the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee for government service in 1987 and the Alumni Association of the Asian Institute of Management or Triple A awardee for management also in the same year.

The Jan. 23 event will also see the launching of the Federation of Catholic School Alumna/ae Associations (Fecasaa), an organization consisting of Catholic schools. The Fecasaa will identify Catholic school alumna/ae who occupy key positions of service and authority and provide them with values orientation and skills training.

The Fecasaa has a present membership of 15, among them, DLSU, as one of its founding members, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Sto. Tomas, San Beda College, Assumption College, St. Scholastica's College, St. Theresa's College Quezon City, and St. Paul's College Quezon City.

NICHE IN GLOBALIZATION

Weep no more over flight of OFWs–Jaza

By Doris C. Dumlao

SHED no more tears for overseas Filipino workers. Instead of wailing over the so-called "brain drain," be glad that the Philippines has found its niche in globalization as a chief source of migrant labor.

Thus said Ayala Corp. chair and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, who yesterday sought the promotion of OFWs as an economic sector which should be integrated into the country's program for economic modernization and global competition.

"The time for feeling guilty about our OFWs is over. The time to raise them to the heart of our engagement in the world has come," Zobel de Ayala said in a speech before the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines.

The chief of the Ayala conglomerate (which owns Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land Inc. and Globe Telecoms) said the country, which has greatly benefited from OFW incomes, should invest more in professionalizing and modernizing the sector.

Maximum benefits

He said the entire system of training, deploying and securing them in overseas workplaces would bring maximum benefits to their families and the nation while minimizing the social costs.

As such, he called for the adoption and promulgation of an internationally recognized accreditation system where the Philippines could explore and leverage linkages with highly reputable international institutions for a certification program.

ZOBEL DE AYALA

"This will automatically open up more opportunities and lead to increased pay levels, among other things," he said.

He said the international accreditation had become more important in recent years because other countries were now likewise moving aggressively into overseas employment and that several countries were now trying to learn from the Philippine experience on how to manage the OFW program.

'Rejoice'

"Rather than bewail the loss of our homegrown talent, I believe we should instead rejoice in the fact that we have found a truly unique niche that many other countries envy, celebrate the significant contribution that it brings to our struggling economy and give the industry our full and unequivocal support," Zobel de Ayala said.

He noted that the Philippines was now a trailblazer in effectively deploying workers—both skilled and semi-skilled—across the globe, surpassing Mexico as the chief supplier of migrant labor.

Zobel de Ayala said it was unfortunate that the OFW phenomenon was being lamented by some as a "brain drain" and sometimes viewed disparagingly as "slave labor."

Trickle down effect

The contribution of the OFW sector, which was expected to have remitted $8 billion in 2002, was significantly trickling down to people's purchasing power and consumption, he said.

Despite its significant contribution to the country's economic fortunes, however, Zobel de Ayala said the sector would need more investment support to stay competitive.

"Just because we currently occupy this niche does not mean it will always be so. We must strive to raise our game and put our OFW program leagues away from our competitors—not just in terms of the skills that they offer but also in terms of the support system that they receive from government and our training institutions.

The OFW program was first conceived by the Philippine government in the 1970s as a stop-gap measure to alleviate domestic unemployment and poverty as well as help the country raise foreign exchange for import requirements.

"In 1975, when the OFW program began, we deployed some 35,000 workers. Today, there are over 7 million OFWs worldwide, in 193 countries across the continents. And they are there—tackling varied jobs from highly skilled to semi-skilled work—not just because they need the jobs but also because they are in demand," he said.

Metrobank's $125-M reason to celebrate

Metrobank celebrated its successful $125 million 10-year Lower Tier 2 bond issue with a festive closing dinner recently at the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center poolside hosted by UBS Warburg, the sole bookrunner on the transaction.

This is the first public subordinated debt issue in the Philippines and opens the international capital markets for other local banks looking to strengthen their capital base. The bonds have been registered in Singapore and will pay a semi-annual coupon of 8.5 percent.

Metrobank's issue is a landmark success for the entire Philippine banking system as it enables Philippine banks to tap an entirely new investor base in the international capital markets. The demand was more than 1.5 times the issue size with over 60 percent of the demand coming from international institutional investors. A successful roadshow was conducted by Metrobank's senior management in Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong and London.

As the BSP has adopted BIS standards and international market practice in its regulation, Philippine banks are encouraged to strengthen their capital base.

Present during the dinner were BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Metrobank president Antonio S. Abacan Jr., chief finance officer Alfredo Javellana II, director and First Metro Investment Corp. president Francis Sebastian, UBS Warburg managing director Patrick O'Brien, director Lauro Baja and Gerry Geronimo and Perry Pe of the Romulo Mabanta Law Office.

LAWYER Perry Pe, Warburg director Lauro Baja and Metrobank's legal officer Antonio Viray (back turned).

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. president Francis Sebastian, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, and Warburg managing director Patrick O'Brien.

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Air pollution takes toll on economy

From page C5

should be apprehended.

What needs to be done!

Given the facts, Pulley recommends the following cost-effective steps:

1. Improve vehicle maintenance. This is a special concern for high-use diesel vehicles. Appropriate fines should be imposed on smoke belchers.

2. Promote four-stroke motorcycles. "Motorcycles with a four-stroke engine cost about the same as the ones with a two-stroke engine," says Pulley. "However, the four-stroke motorcycles are much cleaner and more fuel efficient."

In the Philippines, only 25 percent of the motorcycles are four-stroke. Compare that with 82 percent in Thailand, 85 percent in China and 100 percent in Vietnam.

3. Require catalytic converters for new cars. They sharply cut down pollutants like carbon monoxide. And they cost only around P10,000 or a small fraction of a car's price.

4. Reduce sulfur in diesel fuel. The amount of sulfur found in fuel here is 4 times that in fuel used in many countries.

5. Enforce the ban on burning wastes. Attention, local governments. *(Comments to darroyo@philonline.com)*

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Globe is No. 1 telecommunication company in survey

FOR THE second year in a row, Globe Telecom was placed in the list of leading companies in the Philippines and Asia in the Review 200: Asia's Leading Companies annual survey of Far Eastern Economic Review, Asia's premier business newsweekly.

In the Dec. 26, 2002-Jan. 2, 2003 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review, Globe Telecom came up as the number 4 leading company among top 10 Philippine company leaders in the magazine's ranking of Asia's leading companies. Globe finds itself two notches higher in 2002 than in the magazine's survey last year where the telecoms company, in its debut appearance among the Philippines' best companies, was ranked number 6.

With Jollibee Foods, Ayala Corporation and San Miguel Corporation occupying the first three positions in the survey, its fourth-place ranking makes Globe the number 1 Philippine telecommunications company. "Fast food, phones and beer led in the Philippines, suggesting that consumers are stepping up to help fill the void left by disappearing exports," the business publication said in explaining the prominence of the top placers in the survey.

Also, among the leading Philippine companies in the magazine's survey, Globe ranked number 3 in terms of high quality services and products; number 2 in terms of being innovative in responding to customer needs; and number 4 in being a company that others try to emulate.

Globe is a full-service telecommunications company offering cellular mobile telephone system (CMTS), fixed telephone and international communications services, International Private Leased (IPL) lines, Internet access, VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) service, Inter-Exchange Carrier service, Frame Relay, Value-added Network Services (Vans) and other domestic data communications services. It is owned by Ayala Corporation, Singapore Telecom International and Deutsche Telekom.

BPI HOLDS SCIENCE AWARDS PRESENTATION

The BPI Foundation recently feted the winners of this year's BPI Science Awards at the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) 1851 Club at its head office in Makati City. The BPI Science Awards recognizes the outstanding science students from all over the Philippines whose efforts made them excel in mathematics, physics, engineering, chemistry, biology and computer science. The event was attended by the winners from Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines Diliman and Los Baños, University of Sto. Tomas, and De La Salle University, and BPI officers VP Virginia Cabrera, VP Veronica Tapia-Merk and manager Miguel Villa-Real. In photo are from left (seated): Carlo Isidro (UST), Robenzon Lorenzana (UPLB), Julius Cesar Laban (UPLB), Sandra Jean Chua (AdMU), Joselito Bartolome Jr. (UP Diliman), Abelyn Methanie Laurito (UST), and Karen Joy Nomorosa (DLSU); and from left (standing) Eugene Alvin Villar (UP Diliman), Katrina Mona Aantiago (AdMU), Joel Niño Bugayong (UPLB), Denis Joseph Amparo (AdMU), Kathrina Marcelo (UP Diliman), and Jaymie Claire Ang (UST).

9 to 19 December 2002
Organised by
Sponsored by

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR CONSULTANT/SPEAKER

Renowned speaker/trainor and marketing/sales consultant Ricardo de Vera (right with glasses) was selected by the PTTC-Dept. of Trade and Industry as the Philippine's private sector trainor/consultant representative in a specialized certificate study course on 'Training the Trainors on Advance Marketing/Trade and Business' which was conducted in Singapore by the International Trade Institute of Singapore (Itis) and the Japan Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (Aots). Participants came from the Asean region with the aim of professionalizing training in the areas of marketing/trade and business in the region. Together with De Vera is (from left) Ariel Alvarado PTTC-DTI; Takeshi Ichikawa, general manager, Kuala Lumpur Aots; Tan Song Chuan, president of Itis; Ma. Lumen Isleta, 1st secretary and consul of the Philippine Embassy-Singapore; and Genoveva Ancheta of PTTC-DTI. De Vera can be contacted at 0917-3680781.

US company forecasts 100 percent sales growth in RP next year

ONE of the largest manufacturers of loudspeakers in the world, US-based Definitive Technology, projects that sales of their products in the Philippines will rise by 100 percent next year.

David Peet, Definitive Technology vice president for international sales, said that sales are expected to double not just in the Philippines but also throughout Asia. South Korea is the company's strongest market in the region. The company's top markets globally are Australia, Kuwait, Turkey and Dubai.

Until about four and a half years ago, Definitive Technology was available only in the US but the company soon realized the potential of the foreign market and now exports to 60 countries.

Definitive is famous for its bipolar speakers with built-in powered subwoofers, a technology that produces a big, booming and lifelike sound.

Peet admitted that unlike the United States where almost every home has a home theater system, there is some degree of difficulty in introducing their products to Asia, including the Philippines.

He stressed: " We are hoping for a deeper market penetration in the next two years because here, more and more people are becoming aware of how big a difference a home theater system can make in their viewing and listening pleasure."

Sandy Gross and two classmates from Johns Hopkins University founded Definitive Technology in 1990. The company is famous for its loudspeakers with unequalled sound quality and unsurpassed value. The speakers, unlike most famous brands, are good for both music and movies.

Definitive Technology is the world's most awarded loudspeaker brand and has twice been named, as America's most top loudspeaker manufacturer. The company has also been voted number one for quality and reliability by top industry professionals in a US-wide survey and is officially authorized by the US government to call itself "the leader in high-performance loudspeakers."

Definitive Technology is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Studio Systems Corp., a subsidiary of Avid Sales Corporation focused on distributing high-end audio and video products.

Studio Systems Corporation is the exclusive distributor in the country of top American brands well known among audiophiles and home theater enthusiasts worldwide. The company sells selected home theater equipment dealers in Metro Manila.

For more information about Definitive Technology, please call Ronald Arambulo at 522-5698 or visit www.definitivetechnology.com.

IABC LAUNCHES GOLD QUILL AWARDS

The International Association of Business Communicators/Philippines (IABC/Phils.) launched the 2nd Gold Quill Awards at Merk's Bar and Bistro, Greenbelt 3 in Makati City, last Dec. 3. With the theme, 'Communicating Amidst Controversy,' guest speakers included Secretary of Agriculture, Luis 'Cito' Lorenzon Jr., PDI publisher Isagani Yambot and Campaigns and Grey CEO Yolly Villanueva-Ong. Shown in the photo are: (seated from left) Theresa Reyes-Castillo of Louis Berger-Gemusaid; Evangeline Penamora of Sound Images Production Inc.; Veronica Tapia-Merk of BPI and current president of IABC Phils.; (standing from left) Arturo Cariaga of League of Corporate Foundations and IABC Phils. director; Cyndy Tan-Jarabata of Tower Club; Gretchen Ocampo-Recto of Lifewatch Communication; Marian Catedral of Caltex Phils.; Rowena Quejada of Total Petroleum Phils.; Rey Anthony David Jr. of Great Wall Advertising; Cosette Romero of Fleishman-Hillard Manila; Elpi Cuna of Meralco; Ramon Osorio of Campaigns Advocacy and P.R. Inc.; and Ben Milano of Technology Information Promotion. The IABC Gold Quill entries must have produced measurable results during 2002. The materials may be produced in 2001 but implemented in 2002. Absolute deadline for submission is today.

Executive returns to McCann

MCCANN-ERICKSON Philippines, the country's largest advertising agency, announced recently the appointment of Ms Maricel Pangilinan-Arenas as co-managing director of its wholly owned subsidiary agency, Harrison Communications.

Arenas forms a tandem team with Dino Laurena, who previously held the post of general manager of Harrison Communications, prior to his new appointment as co-managing director of this McCann subsidiary.

Arenas is no stranger to McCann-Erickson having retired as senior vice president for corporate affairs in 1998, after 17 years of distinguished service to the agency in the areas of client service, research, HRD and corporate affairs. She has extensive advertising experience handling a wide range of accounts, including Johnson & Johnson's, Del Monte, Levi Strauss, Far East, Goodyear and Citibank. She opted to retire from McCann to pursue studies in Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines, until she was tapped as consultant by Harrison Communications last April to oversee the Globe Telecoms account as client service director.

After completing her degree in Fine Arts, Arenas agreed to resume a full-time career in advertising with this new post. Arenas has received various awards during her career as an advertising professional at McCann-Erickson including the HK McCann Leadership Award.

HONDA ACCORD SCORED AT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. and Honda Cars Tarlac recently sponsored a hole-in-one prize for the 8th Gov. Eduardo Joson Memorial Golf Tournament. Scoring the hole-in-one prize, a 2.0 Honda Accord Vti-L, is Peregrin de Guzman Jr. of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. The hole sponsored is number 2, par 3, white tee at 145 yards of the Luisita Golf and Country Club. The tournament's over-all champion is Vic Ferrer. The ceremonial tee off was led by First Gentleman lawyer Jose Miguel Arroyo together with Sen. Vicente Sotto III, Gen. Alberto Braganza, NBI Dir. Gen. Reynaldo Wycoco, Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III and foundation president Edward Thomas Joson. The tournament is for the benefit of the Gov. Eduardo Joson Foundation Inc. Photo shows (from left) Alvin Lo of Honda Cars Tarlac and Gov. Tomas Joson III awarding a brand new 2.0 Vti-L to Peregrin de Guzman.

SOLID TRIANGLE JOINS PHOTOWORLD MANILA 2003

Solid Triangle Sales Corporation, managers of a chain of photo finishing laboratories nationwide is a major trade exhibitor of the Photoworld Manila 2003 photo and trade show. Solid Triangle booth will showcase Noritsu QSS 3001 printer and processor to enable their business partners from the different provinces to appreciate the digital capabilities of the machine. The company also distributes Mitsubishi photo paper, inkjet paper, processing chemicals and films. The sponsorship contract was recently signed by officials of Solid Triangle and Photoworld Manila officials. Photo shows: (seated, from left) Victor Sison, PWM 2003 education committee chair; Jun Rapanan PWM 2003 chair; Luis O. Toh and Vicky T. Toh, president and general manager Solid Triangle Sales, respectively. Standing: George Yu, photo exhibit chair PWM and Eduviges Y. Huang, chair of the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, PWM organizers. Photoworld Manila 2003, the country's longest running trade show will be held at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City from Jan. 17 to 22. A series of photo workshops will be held at the Asian Institute of Management which started Jan. 18 and ends today, led by Don McGregor, a Canadian photographer, and a host of local speakers. Interested photographers may call 8137420 or 8435341; email ppfpwm@pacific.net.ph or visit www.photoworldmanila.com

ALERT 113 DUNKIN DISCOUNT

DUNKIN Donuts starts the year with 'Alert 113 Dunkin Discount' promo offering a dozen mouth-watering Dunkin Donuts for only P113, save no less than P55. This new year promo may be availed from Jan. 1 to 31, at all participating Dunkin Donuts outlets nationwide.

PASIG'S 1ST SHOPPING MART

Buy Smart, at 202 Urban Velasco Avenue (beside Pasig RC Racing Track), Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, dubbed 'the shopping center for people representing all walks of life' held its recent ribbon-cutting ceremonies with special guests led by Miguel Varela, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Cayetano Ferrera, consultant of the Department of Science and Technology (Dost).

Air pollution takes toll on economy

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE WORLD Bank has released a detailed report on air pollution in the Philippines. It was published as the Environment Monitor 2002, under team leader Jitendra Shah.

The study is rich in information, so I have simplified the mass of technical stuff into this primer.

Health studies around the world have found that air pollution is deadly. Fine particles seep deep into the lungs, and may cause lung cancer, chronic bronchitis and other respiratory ailments.

Those most at risk are children, the elderly and jeepney drivers. A study by the University of the Philippines found that the 32.5 percent of drivers were prone to pulmonary diseases. Some suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis. Respiratory symptoms ranged from 4.8 percent to 27.5 percent of children.

"Air pollution is causing serious health problems and lower productivity, severely impacting Filipinos' quality of life," says Robert Vance Pulley, World Bank country director.

Air pollution slowly strangles people to death as well. In Manila, Cebu, Davao and Baguio, very fine particle emissions resulted in some 2,000 premature deaths per year.

Pollution in these cities also caused 9,000 cases of chronic bronchitis and 51 million lost days due to respiratory illness.

Damage in money terms

Work days are lost, people must be treated for their sickness and lives are snuffed out. The World Bank estimates that the damage caused by pollutants to the four cities mentioned is $400 million a year.

For all urban residents in the country, it is about $1.5 billion a year. Put another way, every year the average amount of damage unleashed by air pollution is some P2,000 per Filipino.

That's nothing to sneeze at.

People are familiar with carbon monoxide and lead that come out of car exhaust. Then there are "total suspended particulates" TSPs, or particles in the air, often from smoke or street dust.

Tinier are particles less than 10 microns in size, or PM10. Other pollutants include sulfur dioxide and ozone.

The biggest source of air pollution is transportation. Over the past two decades, the number of vehicles rose by more than 10 percent every year. There were 3.9 million vehicles in 2001, or more than triple the number in 1983.

Diesel jeeps, trucks and cars in particular seem to contribute the most to illnesses. Research finds that utility vehicles are the major source of particulate matter.

Two-stroke motorcycles spew out exhaust with much unburned fuel, resulting in PM emissions. About 75 percent of the motorcycles here are two-stroke. That is why the transport sector is high priority.

The burning of agricultural wastes in the rural areas is also a cause, but it is of medium priority. Another medium problem is street dust from unpaved roads and from construction sites.

How bad is it?

Scientists take air readings and compare them with official limits or "standards." Alarm bells ring if the readings exceed the standards.

There are 32 sites monitoring the particulates, and of these, 22 or 70 percent have exceeded annual standards. Metro Manila has the worst record. All told, these pollutants are high priority.

As regards PM10, monitoring is limited so far. But the monitoring done in Metro Manila reveals "very high readings."

The so-called 8-hour standard is exceeded in the nation's capital as well for carbon monoxide. The 1-hour standard was exceeded for ozone.

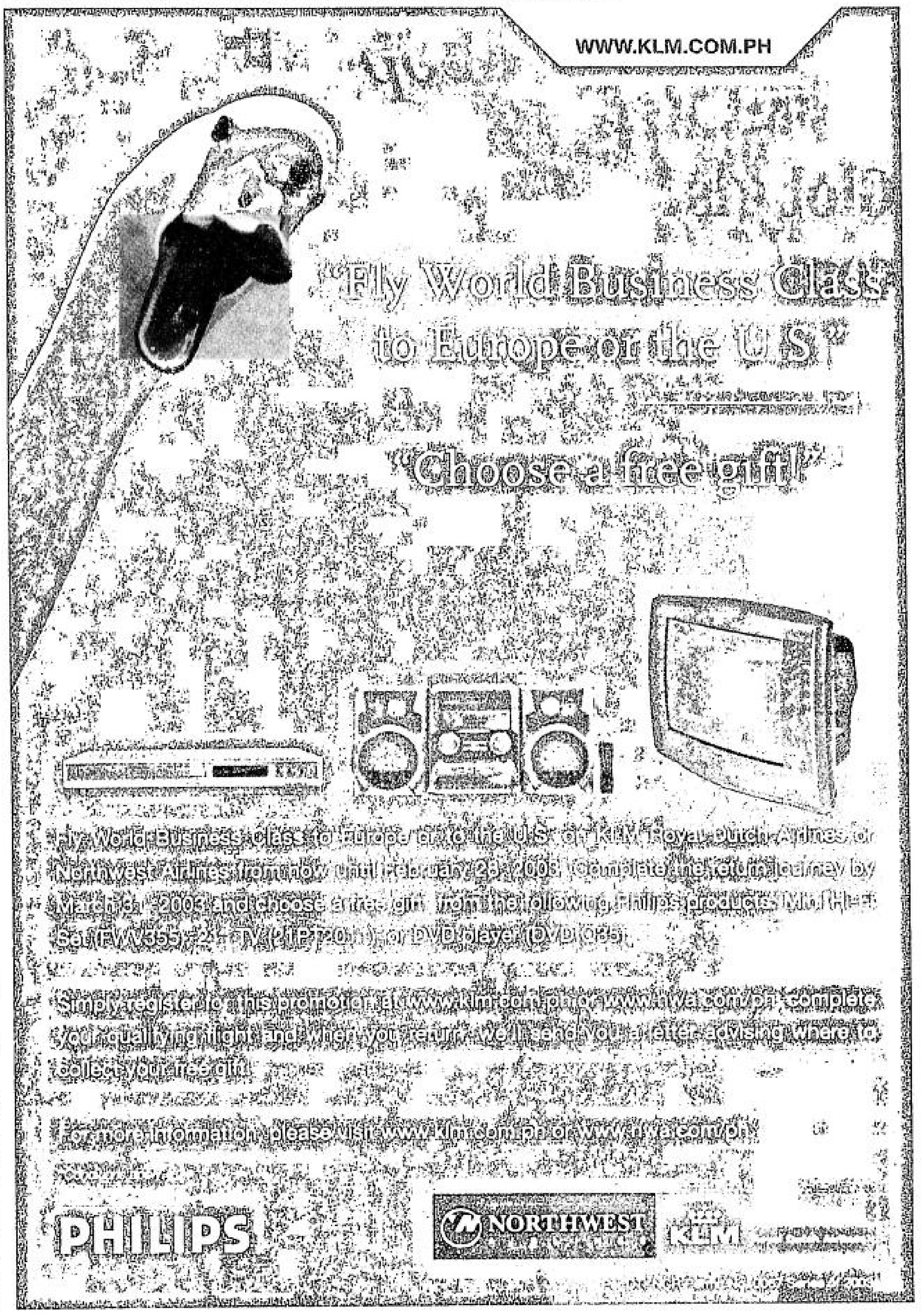
At least there is progress in lead. The readings are down because leaded gasoline has been removed since January 2001.

A survey run by the Philippine Information Agency in 2001 confirms that people were indeed troubled by the extent of air pollution.

"Nearly three-quarters of the general public believe that air pollution is an alarming problem," reported the Environment Monitor. About 68 percent of public utility drivers share the same view as well as 86 percent of public utility owners or operators.

Further, a unanimous 98 percent of the public feel that air pollution is mainly caused by motor vehicles. One sees a similar consensus (96 percent) that smoke-belching vehicles

AIR/C3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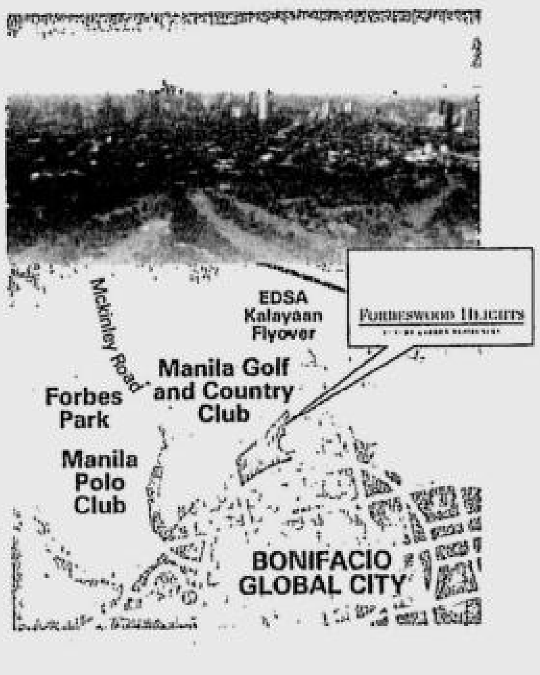
Low-density paradise	Enjoy the private, relaxing ambience of a low-density neighborhood unmatched anywhere else in the city, with an almost 6,000-square-meter central park featuring well-sculpted gardens and leaf-covered promenades, along with palm-lined swimming pools with sunbathing lounges, a tennis court, children's playground and putting green.
Kid-friendly	Children can run around safely in their very own playground. Or in the sprawling lawns that provide a clean, green and vehicle-free play space for kids.
Beautifully designed and crafted homes	Live in homes that truly celebrate life. Comforts and conveniences of a high standard are provided, from cozy living space with quality materials and finishes to strict security and efficient building maintenance services that give you peace of mind.
Wide choice of home layouts	Aside from one-bedroom and executive studio layouts, you can combine adjacent units to transform them into two- or three-bedroom layouts. Best of all, the homes at Forbeswood Heights come with unbelievable prices and terms custom-tailored for upwardly mobile urban professionals like you.
A dining strip just steps away	Discover the many pleasures Forbes Town Road has to offer. Its exciting row of restaurants, cafes and shops almost a kilometer long placed end-to-end is just a stone's throw from your gates.
World-class environment	Your home at Forbeswood Heights is nestled within the Bonifacio Global City, amid a blooming landscape dotted with interesting public art pieces. It is supported by the Global City's state-of-the-art infrastructure, utilities and amenities including The Fort Bus transport system.



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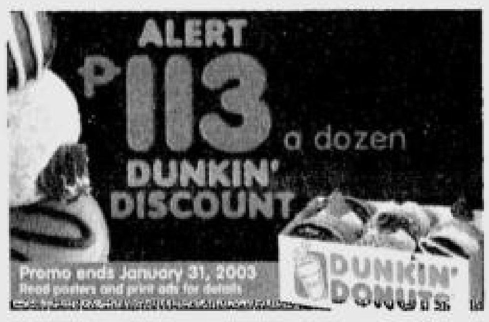
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'Storytelling concert' shows wages of cross-cultural romance

FORMER 'Miss Saigon' star Joanna Ampil and Dutch actor Alex Brouwers

'EAST MEETS WEST'

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

IN A FAST shrinking, increasingly multicultural global village, the story is as timely as today's headlines. "East Meets West" shows the clashes and conflicts inherent in the meeting of two poles to the tune of many well-loved hits from the musical theater.

Two Europeans from the two genders, who happen to be the best of platonic friends, meet two Asian siblings, a brother and a sister. Attraction immediately sizzles between them. Asian guy (Jed Maddela) and European girl (Claudia de Graff) are drawn to each other like magnet, and European guy (Alex Brouwers) and Asian girl (Joanna Ampil) think they are one another's soul mates.

STORYTELLING/ D4

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DOBLENG GALIN

Ang Galing Mo!

The Galing Pilipino Movement, launched only on June 12 last year, has for such a short time received a lot of attention from the public, media and the business community, here and abroad. In fact, support for GPM has snowballed into an overwhelming high."In the beginning, things looked insurmountable. But, like we all know, a good idea that has come into its perfect time seems to have a life of its own. The support we got bears witness to this" Erly de Guzman, GPM founding president, said. A lot of partners have come forward to help GPM. Meetings, seminars, workshops, press conferences and other activities have been held to spread the vision and and champion its cause. The year that was can only be rated Galing and here's why...

Year 2002 in Review

JUNE

▽ At a meet the press launch on June 10

MISCELLANEOUS

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2002 13

LAUNCH

◁ First Kapihan held on June 25 touched on Galing Parenting = Galing Supling

Unveiling to the public on June 12 ▷

JULY

▽ Ninety two attendees in July 27 Kapihan at Chowking Pioneer

Lingkod Galing

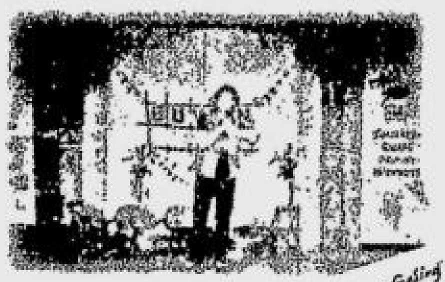
Woman with a mission

Prinsipyo ng Galing Pilipino

◁ "Kusang Galing" topic featured volunteer firemen and first aid rescuers...including this New Yorker, Ioanon Sofoolis, who volunteers as a fireman only when he visits the Philippines. He's done this for 3 years now. He's also the first foreign GPM patron -- giving $200 when he saw the sincerity of GPM volunteers and Filipinos who love and serve their country.

AUGUST

▽ Linggo ng Wika...GPM founder & president, Erly de Guzman, shares the GPM vision and challenges students of College of the Holy Spirit.

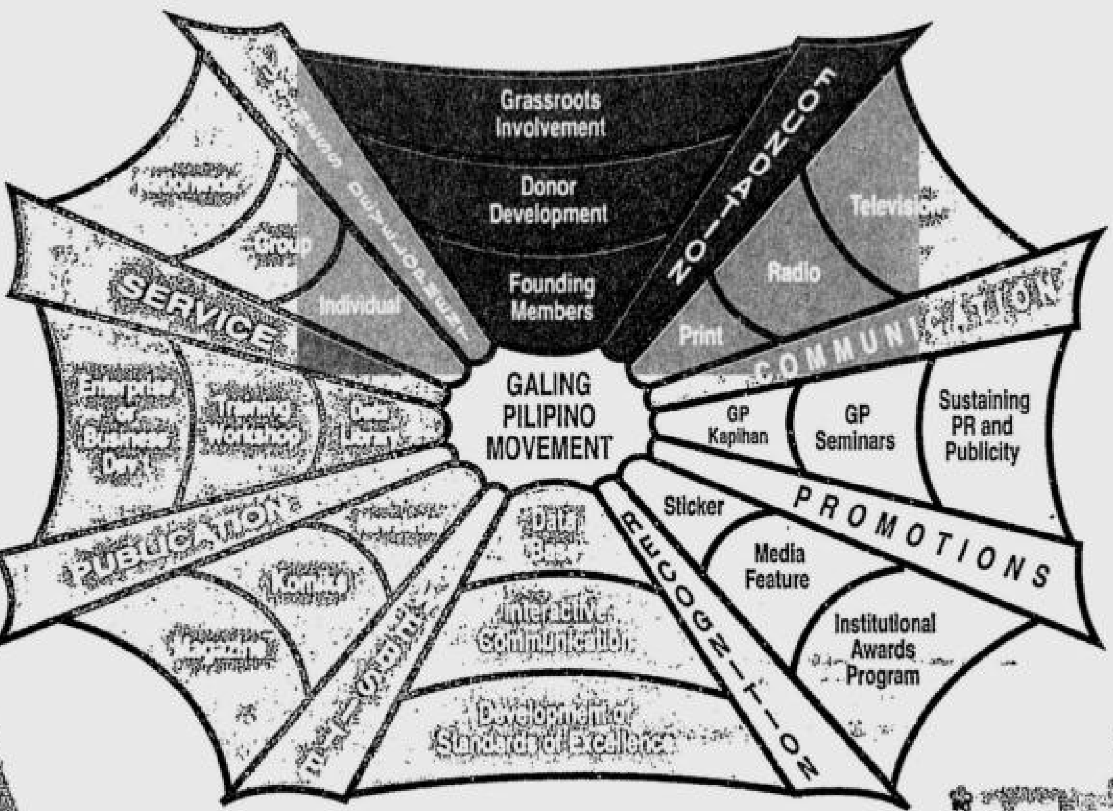


Kakaibang Galing

Andry Lim: Ibang klaseng magsasaka

Prinsipyo ng Galing Pilipino

▷ GPM partners with Natural Farming System proponent, Andry Lim of Davao City, to propagate this chemical-free, low-cost indigenous agri-business method.



SEPTEMBER

Galing Musika

Tunog Pinoy, awit ng ating lahi

Prinsipyo ng Galing Pilipino

△ Eighty-two GP supporte 's heard businessman Jun Cabochan share about their successful Sarilikha employees' credit cooperative which has enhanced employer-employee relations for the past 10 years. From 15 employees raising 70K in capital, Sarilikha now has 350 employee contributors and a fund of PhP10m.

OCTOBER

▽ GPM momentum builds up... speaking engagements in various parts of the country... increasing membership enrollment from many sectors.

◁ GPM commemorates National Heroes Day in Barasoain chrch in Malolos by honoring our historic past and recognizing today's everyday Pilipino heroes in our midst.

Todo Galing

Ang kakaibang 'topak' ni Moses

Prinsipyo ng Galing Pilipino

GPM Newsbits...

NOVEMBER

▷ More schools joined the GPM bandwagon...

◁ More professional associations pledged their support for the Galing Pilipino Movement...

DECEMBER

▽ Ayala Port offered to host GPM website

www.galingpilipino.com

▷ GP Seminars A total of 122 agribusiness enthusiasts attend GP Seminars on Natural Farming Systems held monthly since August 2002.

▲ On December 20, the Press was briefed on the website development partnership among GPM, Ayala Port,Asia Pacific College and The Philippine Society of IT Educators (PSITE)

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- Ang galing, sa sarili manggagaling.
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- Hindi kailangang trabaho'y sikat upang galing mo'y sumikat.
- Kung paglilingkod sa kapwa ang iyong hangarin, kahit maliit na gawa ay kahang-hanga rin.
- Sa lahat ng bagay, todo-bigay!
- Hanep sa hanapbuhay.
- Hangga't 'di sapat, 'di papaawat.
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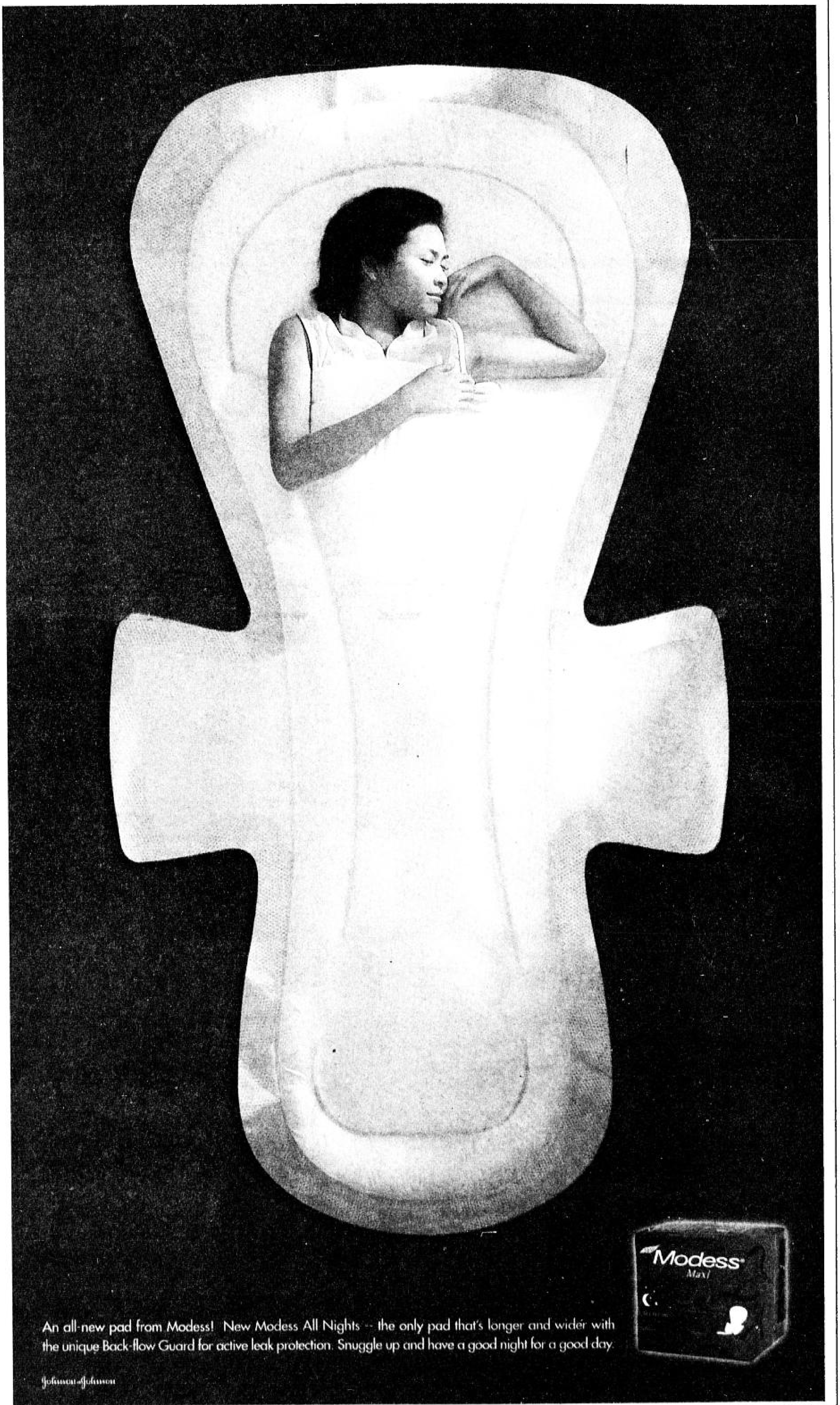

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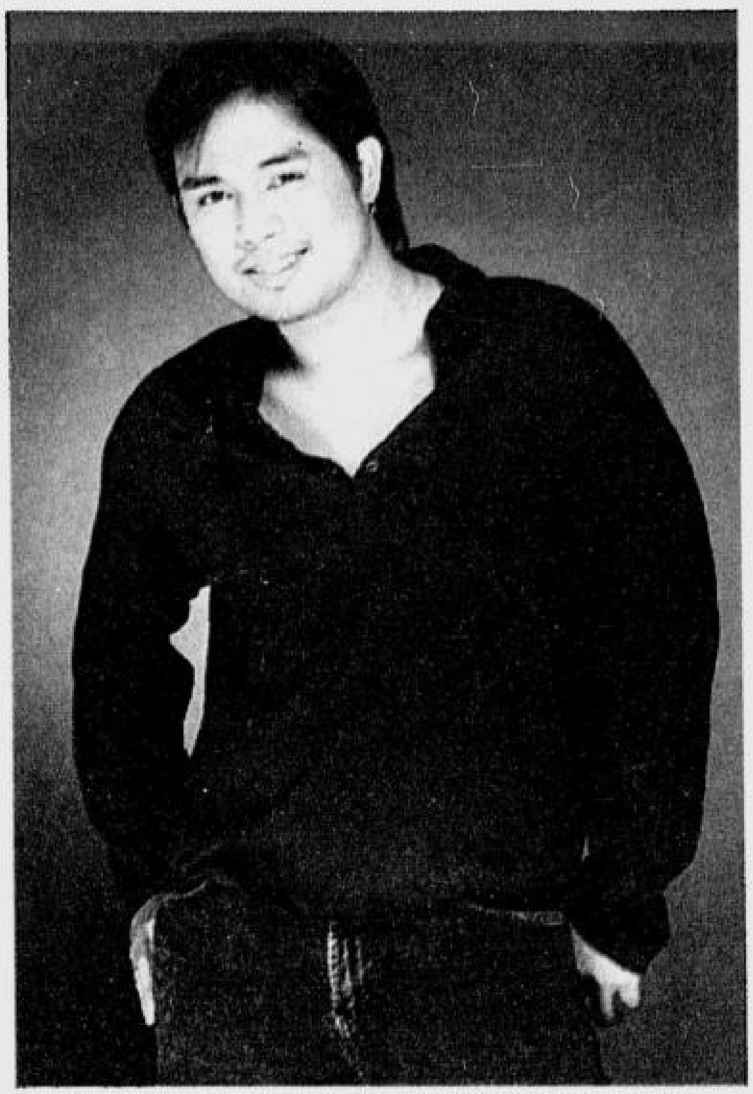
'Storytelling concert' shows wages of cross-cultural romance

JOANNA Ampil and Dutch conductor Maurice Luttikhuis

PHOTO: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



SINGER Jed Maddela plays the Asian boyfriend of European girl (Claudia Graaf)

From page D1

But cultural differences compel the pairs to drastically examine their lifestyle and values. They seek relief and enlightenment in each other's spiritual roots and racial cradle. The Westerners take in the sights, sounds, and age-old beliefs of the Orient, while the Asians travel the roads and cities of Europe.

While the plot is intriguing enough, especially to Pinoys seeking greener pastures abroad, "East Meets West" is not about the story. Not primarily, anyway. It's about the music.

Unlike popular musical theater, which fuses lyrics, music and dance to build a tale, this two-hour presentation elevates the music over the story. That's why Dutch conductor Maurice Luttikhuis, who conceptualized the innovative piece, is careful to call it "a storytelling concert."

Driving home this point is the set-up of the orchestra. The rhythm section of the New Symphonies of Netherlands and the 34-piece Crosswave Orchestra of Chino Toledo will be placed strategically on the stage, and not in the orchestra pit.

"I want the audience to see the musicians, not just the actors," grins the conductor, a well-known figure in European music and concert circles, and who was involved in the Dutch productions of "Les Miserables" and "Phantom of the Opera."

"Something extra happens when the people see the players play. They get excited! I can't stand still when something groovy is playing!"

Luttikhuis came up with the concept, the storyline, and the idea of merging the musical with influences of both Asian and Western styles of music. He went through some 200 beautiful songs, listening to the lyrics, selecting those "which could connect to the other. If we couldn't find the right lyrics, we composed [the song] ourselves."

Different types of musical genre were considered. The most recognizable are Broadway staples ("The Circle of Life Overture" from "The Lion King", "Don't Rain on my Parade" from "Funny Girl") and golden oldies like Michel Legrand's "Funny Valentine" and Eric Carmen's "All by Myself."

Filipino music is mostly represented by Ryan Cayabyab ("Iduyan Mo" and powerful excerpts from the Tanghalang Pilipino musical productions of "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo").

Luttikhuis' original compositions include the poignant "Accept Me for Who I Am." Musical theater-concert actress Ampil describes this as her character's soulful appeal for her lover to take heed of the traditions and cultural mores that have shaped her.

Seamless

Although composed by different artists, the songs were arranged in such a way that they weave seamlessly together, the better to stress each character's emotional journey.

Yet the musical design is still rooted very much in the concert: Each song can stand alone by itself. Production designer Mio Infante describes it: "Every scene [the musical number] is an experience in itself. In theater, it's more of the characters who come out. [In this case,] the personality of the character comes out."

The characters don't even have names. It is the songs that open to the audience the protagonists' particular struggle and longing.

Ampil, playing the Asian girl, has been busy in the United Kingdom's musical theater-concert scene for 10 years now. She has just finished "Miss Saigon" in Scotland and a series of concerts in Ireland.

Another concert, this time in Denmark, is next on her plate after "East Meets West." She also played Mary Magdalene in the 1996 UK version of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and sang Princess Jasmine in "Aladdin" and Eliza Doolittle in "The Tribute to My Fair Lady" in the new-cast recording versions.

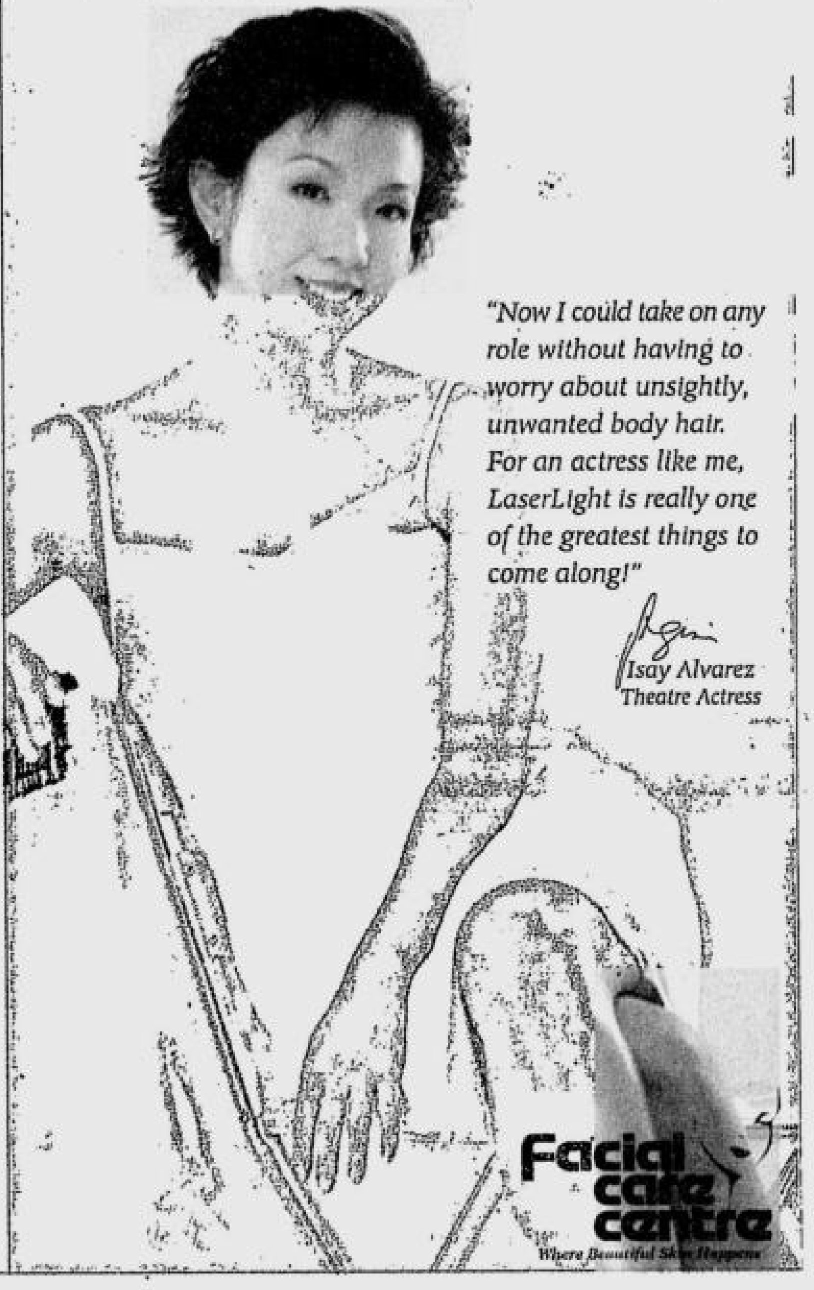
Rounding off the rest of the lovers are European guitarist and songwriter Alex Brouwers, European singer-actress Claudia de Graaf, and Filipino singer and band vocalist Jed Maddela.

Filipino-Australian actor R.J. Rosales ("Chang and Eng: The Musical") is the couples' fly in the ointment. This skeptical, naysaying brother keeps hounding his siblings with the depressing reminder that cross-cultural relationships never work.

"East Meets West" was first staged at the Grand Theater of the Hong Kong Cultural Center last August. The Manila production is only the second time it is being staged in Asia.

With its various musical sources, a minimalist stage design obviously made for touring, and multiracial cast and crew, this storytelling concert looks set to cross and crash the boundaries of all continents and races.

"East Meets West" will run for three performances on Jan. 24-25 at the CCP Tanghalang Abelardo. Call 832-1125, 823-0348, and 832-3686.



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LIFESTYLE Books

The legacy of Anne Frank

By Johnathan Libarios Rondina
Contributor

WRITING in a diary is a strange experience for someone like me," Anne Frank wrote in 1942. "Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a 13-year-old schoolgirl."

Little did Anne know that, years later, her diary will be translated into more than 60 languages, read by millions of people around the world, and become an inspiration for the likes of Nelson Mandela, Vaclav Havel and John F. Kennedy who once observed that, "Of the multitude who, throughout history, have spoken for human dignity in times of loss, no voice is more compelling than that of Anne Frank."

Anne's diary is truly a compelling account of the horrors of war and prejudice. In it, Anne chronicled her family's experiences in

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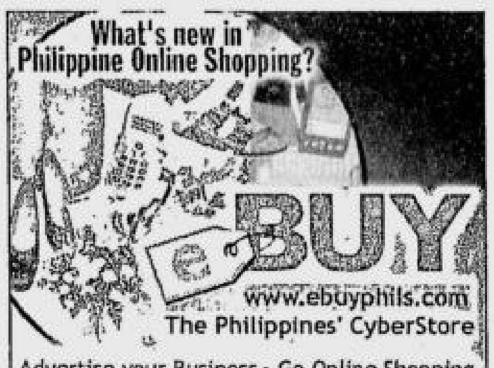
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The farewell exhibit

By Constantino C. Tejero

How the gallery looked was how the owner's art also looks: clean lines, clear light, near-monochrome

"SAD," says painter Benjamin Cabrera. "What else can you say but, it's so sad?"

He is referring to the closing of Luz Gallery, the art institution run by National Artist Arturo Luz and wife Tessie which had been supporting the cause of high-quality art for over 40 years.

"I may perhaps be the most consistent exhibitor in the gallery," Bencab relates.

His first exhibit in the venue was a group show in 1967, which was closely followed by his first one-man show in 1968. He estimates he has had about 30 exhibits held in Luz Gallery. His last, fittingly enough, was also a group show.

"It was a proper gallery," he says. "The way it used space was different from that of the others, which look like *eskaparate* where goods are displayed."

This explains why, though almost hidden, the venue still managed to showcase art of the highest rank through the years, and artists would scramble to get a slot to exhibit in its intimate space (in effect, wanting Luz's seal of approval).

"*Kung sino talaga ang* interested *sa* art, they would seek out the place," Bencab continues. "What made it different was, it was a personal gallery of Arturo Luz. How it looked reflected the owner's personality."

How the gallery looked was, in fact, how the owner's art also looks: clean lines, clear light, near-monochrome.

Sense of balance

In the gallery's final exhibit in late December, "Group Show 2002," Luz was represented by four pieces in oil on canvas. Hung on the white wall near the entrance were the signature pieces verging between figurative forms and abstract patterns, thin geometric lines and outlines on a flat background of planes of solid monochrome.

NATIONAL Artist Arturo Luz and wife Tessie

GUS Albor with his painting "Ascent in B"

"Carnival Walls" shows white outlines of what seem like spare parts of a machine against a background halved between planes of black and ochre. "Cities of the Past" has gold domes and planes and white outlines of Art Deco buildings on black.

"Variation on the Juggler Theme 1" is adorned with what appear to be signs and symbols from geometry: two ochre triangles, a gray rhomboid, white circles, a stick representation of a white long-stemmed wine glass delicately balanced by a white half-circle, on black.

"Palitana Series: White Temples" has planes of gold and black furrowed with white diagonal and parallel lines that form outlines of domes.

Luz's linear paintings have affinities with the abstraction of Russian artists, particularly the Surprematism of Malevich, the Constructivism of Tatlin, the Non-objective of Rodchenko, or even the Proun of Lissitzky.

Face to face with his work, the viewer apprehends that sense of perfect balance where a slight movement of a line or a little misplacement of a curve would render the whole to collapse.

BENJAMIN Cabrera

The Luz pieces were flanked on one side by Gus Albor's "Ascent in B," an abstraction of gray, black and white washes with brown and blue patches, the surface textured with sandy impasto, stamped and furrowed.

On the opposite wall was Lao Lianben's "In Silence," the wide canvas washed with whitish-gray and filled with a black pencil check pattern, like a visual correlative to a mantra.

This was flanked on both sides by Romulo Olazo's "Permutation Series II, No. 56," the huge canvas painted a solid black with a few thin white lines; and "Permutation Series II, No. 12," the canvas maroon with thin white lines and a diaphanous swathe of brown.

Strategy of placement

Bencab had two giant paintings of "Sabel," each with two images of the woman in billowing sheer fabric in varying attitudes and angles.

In the first painting, she is outlined in white, in brownish fabric, against a background of gray, maroon and ochre.

In the other, she is rendered in bold brushstrokes of gray, white, black, red, ochre, brown, in gray fabric, against a background of khaki scratched to reveal an underpaint of blood-red. While in her other images the woman looks stolid, in one she has a startled look.

Near the center of the hall was installed Impy Pilapil's "Stone Spirit," a slightly twisting tubular sculpture consisting of two split columns of unpolished marble of black and gray.

These are thinly sliced circular slabs neatly stacked up almost to the ceiling. The whole appears like a totem pole sundered by lightning.

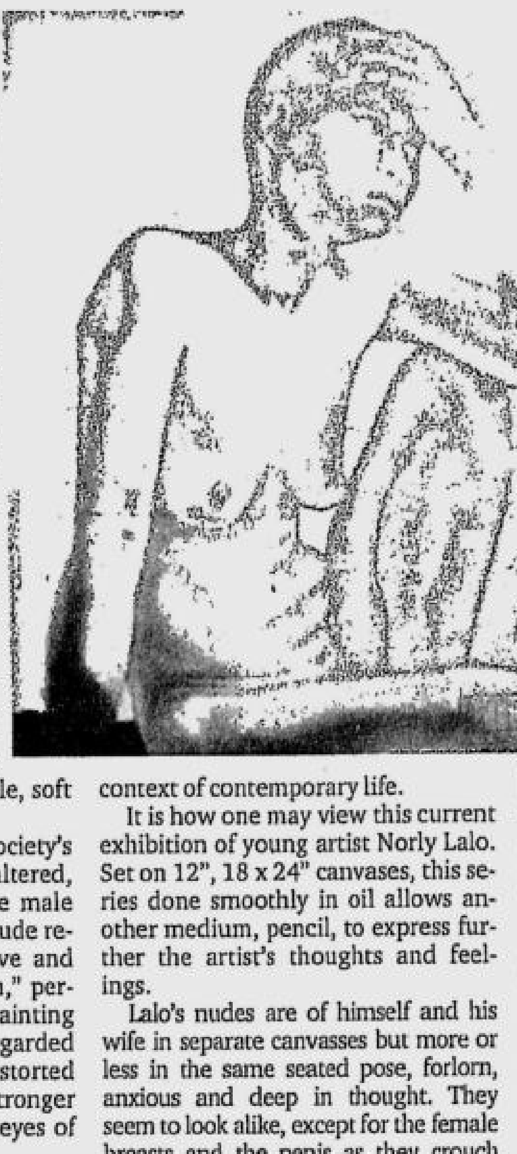
Directly facing the entrance, but hung at the farthest end of the gallery, were three pieces by Malang: "Fruit Vendor," showing a woman amid neon hues of pink, violet, orange, green, red, with a *bilao* of unrecognizable acid-green fruits; "White Lady," a pinkish lady in white yellowing *kimona*, with hands clasped, surrounded by triangles of green, blue, orange, red, violet, pink; and "Woman," an ochre figure in yellow *kimona* and blue-and-pink printed *saya*, with a purple-and-red bandanna and an orange scapular of the Sacred Heart, against a background of brown.

You have to give it to Luz's strategy of placement. Though Malang's canvases were relatively smaller and placed at the farthest corner of the hall, the moment the viewer stepped on to the threshold, the eyes were drawn to the fiesta colors and highly decorative art.

This was the brilliant point in a space of monochromatic tones, the happy punctuation to an otherwise sad adieu.

Lalo's nudes: Only too human

By Rachel Mayo
Contributor



THE HUMAN body has always been artistically depicted in nude form since ancient times, evolving as culture and social values change.

Early religious paintings glorified it in Creation, and saw shame in it in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise. It was exquisitely made immortal during the classical period and the Renaissance, which showed naked women in languorous recline, of sensual beauty in lazy repose, in thin seductive veils and averted eyes.

From the Renaissance to the 19th century, the female nude became a symbol of awe, inspiration and intrigue. Western art, in its patriarchal tradition, whose artists were mostly men—depicted their nudes in a veil of mystery—vulnerable, soft and sexy.

Since the 1900s, however, society's views on the female role has altered, and so did the forms and the male representation of the female nude reflect this. Picasso's provocative and radical "Demoiselle d'Avignon," perhaps the most revolutionary painting in the history of nude art, disregarded beauty with their crudely distorted forms, making them look stronger and more threatening in the eyes of men.

As Modernism stepped in, all the way to Postmodernism, the expression of human emotion became the central need for art-making. Colors, lines, and forms gave vent to the various anxieties of modern-day living. The nude was no longer adored as form for its sake. Rather, the nude took on a different meaning in the context of contemporary life.

It is how one may view this current exhibition of young artist Norly Lalo. Set on 12", 18 x 24" canvases, this series done smoothly in oil allows another medium, pencil, to express further the artist's thoughts and feelings.

Lalo's nudes are of himself and his wife in separate canvasses but more or less in the same seated pose, forlorn, anxious and deep in thought. They seem to look alike, except for the female breasts and the penis as they crouch pensively without a hint of reverence or reference to the fact that they are nude.

Rendered in thin layers of yellow ochre and brown, the forms are seated on a green box in various angles. Heavy pencil marks are drawn in and around the subject, like graffiti expressing domestic concerns and marital expectations.

The clothesline and pins become a starting point for the artist. Doing laundry is, indeed, a tedious domestic chore and in its silent ritual, one's thoughts are allowed to linger on the less mundane. Such as what we see in the words the artists has casually written here and there, like the clotheline that seems to be everywhere—"*gabay*" or guidance; "*kandungan*" or cradle; "*kaakbay*" or companion; or "*damdamin*," meaning feelings.

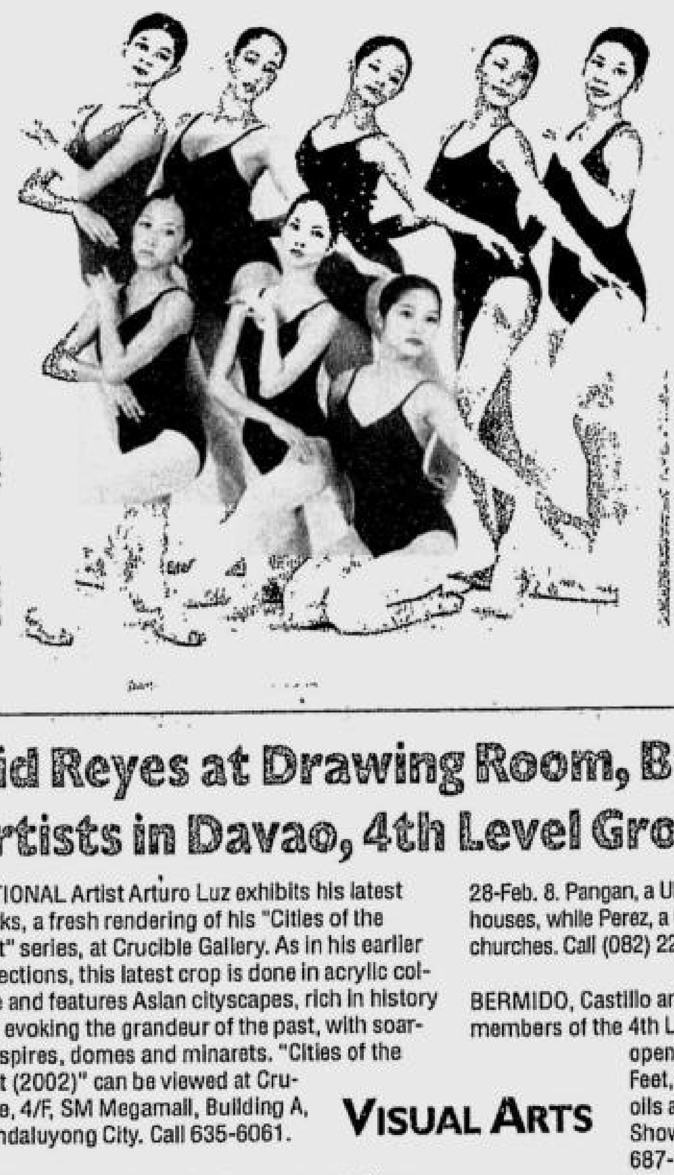
At times he lets go and become playful, almost labeling body parts such as "*daliri*" or finger; "*puwit*" or bottom; "*tagiliran*" or sides; "*puso*" or heart. He ridiculously goes on further with words like "*tela*" or fabric; "*lunes, martes, miyerkules...*" or Monday, Tuesday, Wedneday..

Lalo may have disregarded beauty for the sake of the emotions he wishes to convey, but one cannot miss appreciating his facility with human anatomy, including that challenging "foreshortening" that shows his skill.

One leaves the exhibition with a whole new way of viewing the nude. The fact that the subjects are naked has actually no bearing on the significance the artist has wished to express. They are nude or naked in their defenselessness, an expression of human weakness rather than of beauty.

Indeed, Lalo's exhibition is a postmodern attack on the nude. Such as his deep pencil lines that seem irreverent against the classic oil on canvas.

"Cara," paintings by Norly Lalo, is on exhibit until Jan. 31 in Avellana Art Gallery at 220 Fresno Rd., Pasay City. Gallery hours are from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 522-9793 to 94.



'SWAN LAKE' AT AFP THEATER

THE ASSOCIATION of Ballet Academies of the Philippines (Abap) will present "The Abap Swan Lake Project," its first full-length production. With help from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Pagcor, and the product of Abap's 33 member-directors, the production will be mounted on Jan. 26, 6 p.m., at Teatro Aguinaldo. Call (0919) 556-5504.

Cid Reyes at Drawing Room, Bulacan artists in Davao, 4th Level Group at Nine

VISUAL ARTS

NATIONAL Artist Arturo Luz exhibits his latest works, a fresh rendering of his "Cities of the Past" series, at Crucible Gallery. As in his earlier collections, this latest crop is done in acrylic collage and features Asian cityscapes, rich in history and evoking the grandeur of the past, with soaring spires, domes and minarets. "Cities of the Past (2002)" can be viewed at Crucible, 4/F, SM Megamall, Building A, Mandaluyong City. Call 635-6061.

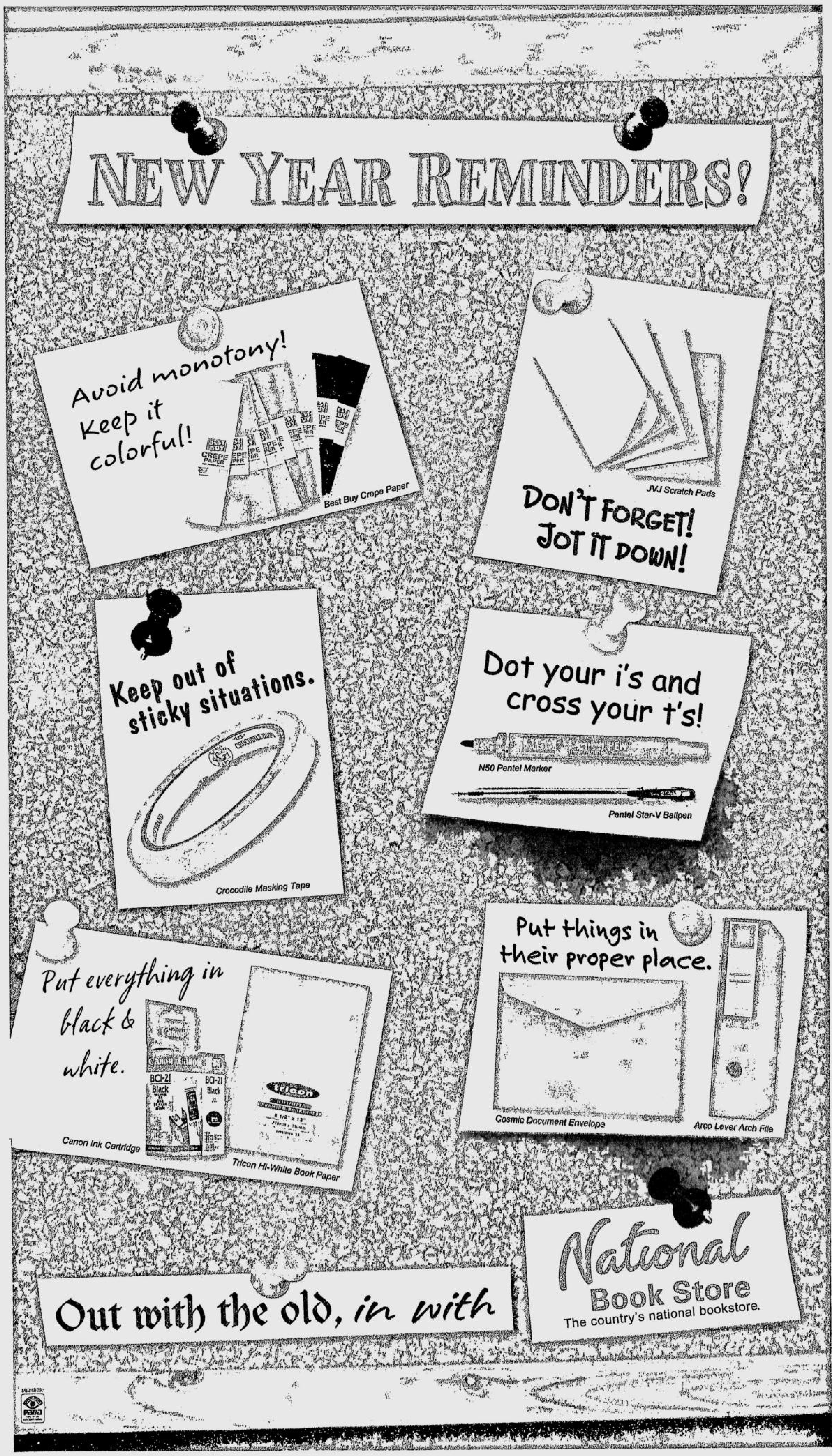
CID Reyes, art critic and painter, presents his recent works on paper at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City, Jan. 18-Feb. 5. The works are abstract compositions characterized by the dissolution of solid forms. Call 897-6990/7877.

BULACAN artists Danny Pangan and Al Perez are holding the exhibit, "Ancestral Houses, Oriental Churches," at the Geniuna Gallery in Davao City, Jan. 28-Feb. 8. Pangan, a UE graduate, paints ancestral houses, while Perez, a UST graduate, paints old churches. Call (082) 2262104 or 221-0296.

BERMIDO, Castillo and Lindslee are the three members of the 4th Level Art Group who will open tonight the exhibit "Faith, Feet, Fate," featuring abstract oils and mixed media on canvas. Show runs until Jan. 31. Call 687-7302.

A NEW series of big charcoal works on paper by Kiko Escora, "Familiar Strangers," is on view at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City, until Feb. 5. Call 897-6990/7877.

ENG Chan presents "Bolted," a one-man show at Finale Art Gallery 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City, Jan. 24-Feb. 9.



NEW YEAR REMINDERS!

Avoid monotony! Keep it colorful!

Best Buy Crepe Paper

JVJ Scratch Pads

DON'T FORGET! JOT IT DOWN!

Keep out of sticky situations.

Crocodile Masking Tape

Dot your i's and cross your t's!

N50 Pentel Marker

Pentel Star-V Ballpen

Put everything in black & white.

Canon Ink Cartridge

Tricon Hi-White Book Paper

Put things in their proper place.

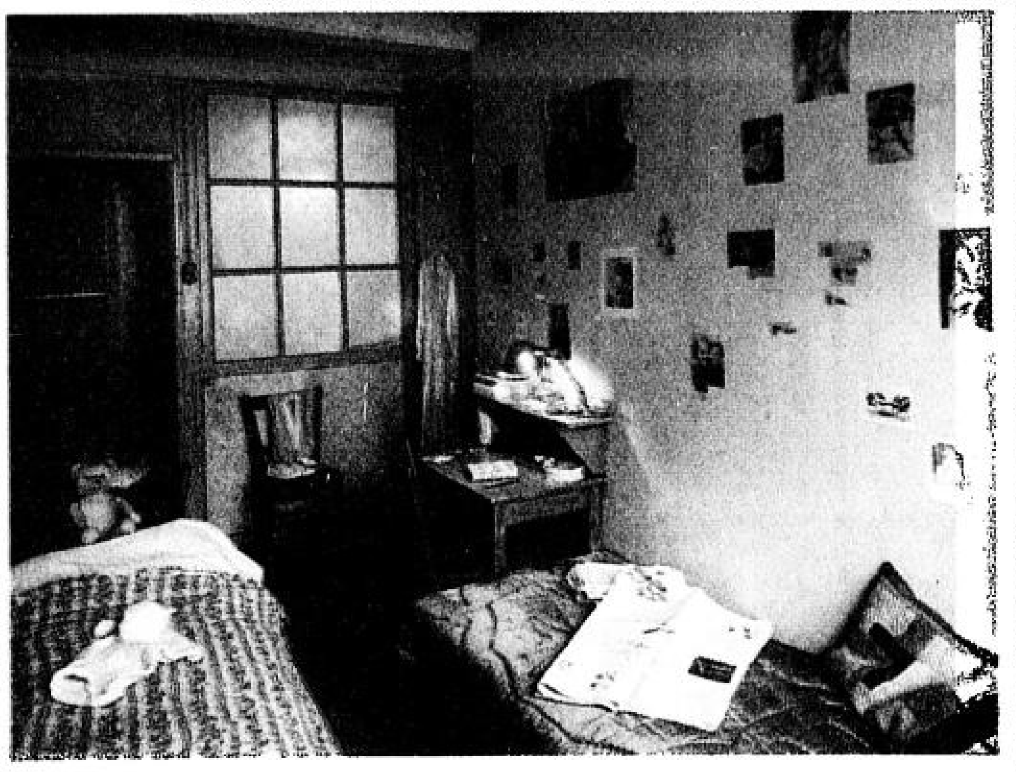
Cosmic Document Envelope

Arco Lever Arch File

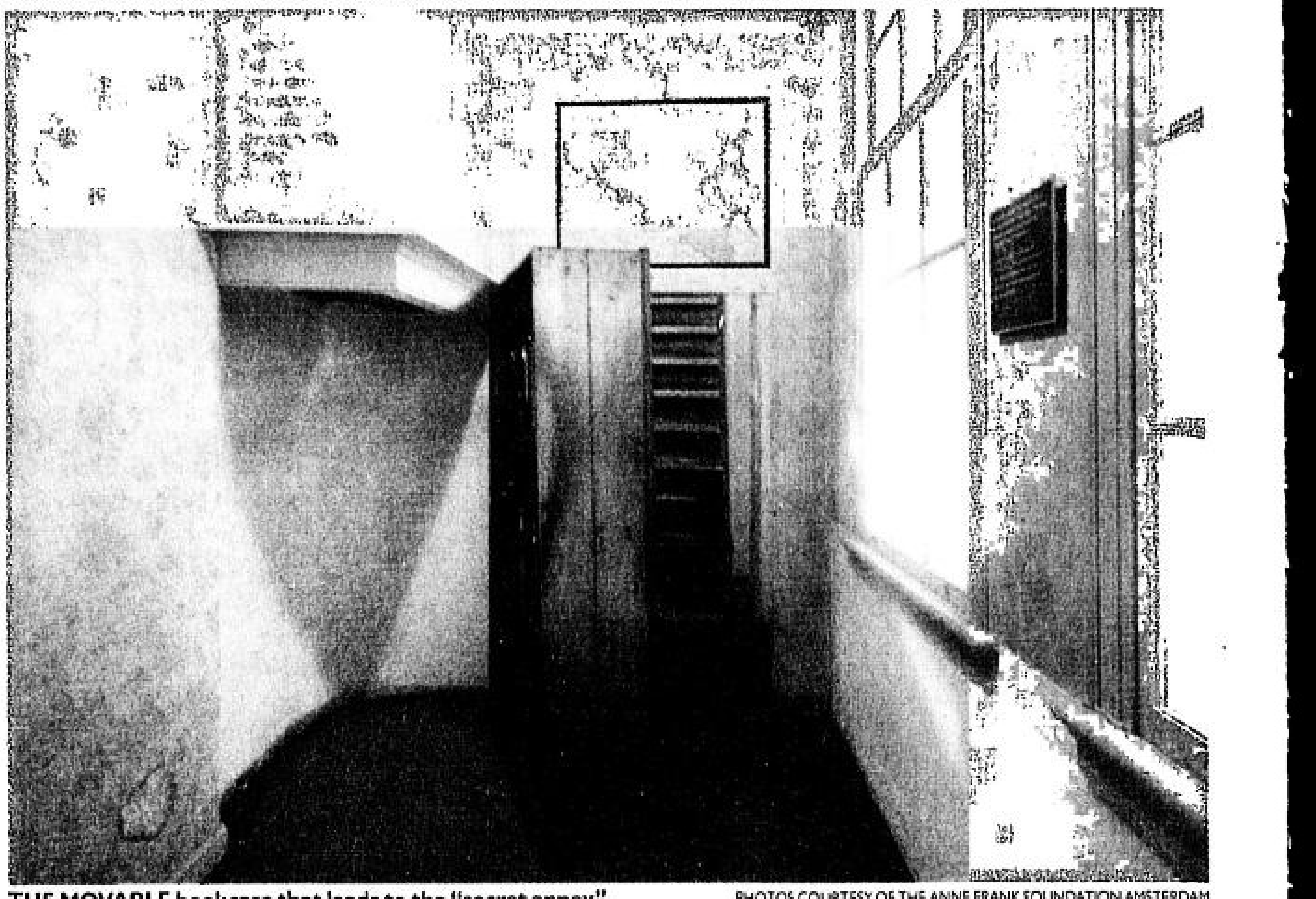
Out with the old, *in with*

National Book Store

The country's national bookstore.



ANNE'S room, Anne Frank House, Amsterdam



THE MOVABLE bookcase that leads to the "secret annex"

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ANNE FRANK FOUNDATION AMSTERDAM

The *legacy* of Anne Frank

From page E1

the "secret annex," where they were forced to hide from Hitler's anti-Jewish forces for more than two years until their betrayal to the. Gestapo by an unknown informant.

There, Anne, her parents Otto and Edith, her sister Margot and four others, faced isolation, hunger and the constant threat of discovery.

"Countless friends and acquaintances have been taken off to a dreadful fate," she wrote. "Night after night, green and gray military vehicles cruise the streets. It's impossible to escape their clutches unless you go into hiding."

Tragically, six million Jews did not manage to escape the clutches of Nazi-extremism and were annihilated by Hitler's ethnic cleansing campaign.

Voice of hope

Caged as she was, the spirited Anne was nevertheless the voice of hope. In her diary, she spoke of a peaceful, postwar world, of a time "when we will be people again and not just Jews!"

Despite the severely restricted environment of the secret annex and the dark outside world governed by the Nazi regime, Anne was proof to the adage that the most genuine freedom rests in the mind. Lesser mortals would have easily fallen into despair but not the courageous young Anne who found freedom in her own voice.

"You've known for a long time that my greatest wish is to be a journalist, and later on, a famous writer," she confided in her diary. "In any case, after the war I'd like to publish a book called 'The Secret Annex.'"

Although Anne did not live long enough to see the fulfillment of her dream, her moving personal account of life during World War II continues to inspire people the world over. Her legacy is especially significant in this day and age when racism and prejudice in all its forms continue to divide societies and oppress people, and genocides, as in the recent experience of places like East Timor and Kosovo, are perpetrated in horrible proportions.

Indeed, as United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has said: "Anne Frank's eternal words have inspired people of all ages, religions and nationalities, but they resound most powerfully among the young. If Anne Frank, in her living hell, could summon the will to imagine a better, more peaceful world, a future free of suffering and persecution, then surely we can summon the will to make that day come to pass."

ANNE Frank at Montessori School, 1941

Filipinos, no strangers to war and conflict, are invited yet again to share and be inspired by Anne Frank's legacy via the traveling exhibit "Anne Frank: A History for Today." The exhibit, fittingly staged at the historic San Agustin Museum in Intramuros, itself a survivor of World War II, features quotes from Anne's diary, rare photos of her family, and a documentary that shows the only known footage of Anne Frank. It also presents the history of the Holocaust through poignant accounts by survivors.

The exhibit has been staged in 18 countries and is here in Southeast Asia for the very first time. Organized by the Anne Frank Foundation and the Royal Netherlands embassy in Manila with the Museum Volunteers Organization of the Philippines, the exhibit challenges visitors to reflect on the consequences of war and prejudice by thoughtfully juxtaposing words and images of places, memories, victims, survivors, past and present.

The exhibit is must-see for those who, like Ann Frank, hope for a more, tolerant, humane and peaceful world.

"Anne Frank: A History for Today" runs until Feb. 24 at the San Agustin Museum and from Feb. 27 to March 31 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Students who wish to volunteer as exhibit guides may call the Dutch embassy at 812-5981 local 226. For field trip inquiries, call the San Agustin Museum at 527-4060 or 526-6794.

An exhibit of the girl behind the famous diary of World War II reaches Manila and evokes the poignancy and drama of quiet courage amid hopelessness

Brave thoughts of Pinoy youth on family and faith

Heaven's Kitchen
The Varsitarian
UST Publishing House, 2002
110 pages

By Jose Wendell P. Capili
Contributor

REVIEW

AS Manila hosts the World Meeting of Families this month, it would be worthwhile to look into the thoughts of young people about the world, their condition and their aspirations. "Heaven's Kitchen," a book of prayers and reflections, should somehow provide us that peek.

The book should do that role because it is written and published by the Varsitarian, the official student paper of the University of Santo Tomas whose alumni roster includes National Artists F. Sionil Jose, Daisy Avellana and J. Elizalde Navarro, Ramon Magsaysay laureate Bienvenido Lumbera, Joe Guevara, Gloria Goloy, Neal Cruz, Wilfrido Nolledo, Rogelio Sicat, Cirilo Bautista, Francisco Tatad, Jullie Yap Daza, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Danny Dalena, Norma Miraflor, Pennie Azarcon-de la Cruz, Rina Jimenez David, Eric Gamalinda, Noli Yamsuan, Jollibee-Greenwich CEO Regina Bautista-Navarrete, former Philippine Medical Associate president Vicente Rosales and many others.

These luminaries were student writers once and from their pens issued commentaries that had proved illuminating and prescient. The pen pushers behind "Heaven's Kitchen" may be just as revealing.

The book collects the inspirational essays and prayers that first came out in the paper's Witness (religion) section under the column that now sports the book's title.

According to seminarian Eldric Peredo, the paper's associate editor, the articles were meant "to provide some relief from the hard-nosed news and feature stories" that the paper usually carried. The column became so popular that, to student circles in and out of UST, it became synonymous with articles passionately dealing with faith and reason.

Heaven's Kitchen
Inspirationals and prayers for young Filipinos
The UST Varsitarian

Several entries in "Heaven's Kitchen" problematize "black" and "white" as signifiers of a fundamental polarization of human worth—superiority/inferiority.

For instance, Anna Rachelle Ariola's "Spiritual Makeover" depicts the need to reassemble an identity out of the refractions of material deprivation as it talks about an "impulsive shopper": "My friend... confided that this was her way to compensate for the things that she lacked... We so pamper ourselves with products that can enhance our appearance that we tend to neglect that part of us which deserves the much-needed nurturing—our soul."

Facing fear

It is equally brave for many writers in the anthology, young as they are, to face fear squarely—fear of exposure, the fear that one's deepest emotions would be taken as nonsense.

Law student Marlon Castor's "A Mother's Undying Love" affirms this and betrays a commitment to feminist inflections amid contemporary male politics in the anecdote of a mother who urges her son to go to Mass alone since she will have to do the laundry: "'But my teacher said if you won't go to Mass, you'll go to hell,' the boy said. The woman smiled and said, 'Better me than you, my son.'"

Castor's "Picking Up One's Cross," on the other hand, comes to terms with the masculine persona's deep recesses: "Most of my college buddies were surprised to learn that I was back in school. Before, they had to literally drag me to attend class."

Michelle Jeanne Dompor's "On and Off" moves from silence to coherent speech by cultivating the interior life: "I went to the pew, knelt down and bowed my head. There I prayed in silence..."

In "The Inner Voice," Christian Bautista shows how young people accumulate emotional baggage because of the chaos of never-ending possibilities (the hegemonic world of grown-up people): "At a low point of my life, I once blamed God for not giving me something I sorely wanted. Looking back, I cringe at the fact that I was dumb enough to think that God had it for me."

Marie Carisa Ordinario's "Letting Go" shows how young people need compassion and greater understanding as they undergo rites of passage, like a girl who has to face the prospect of separation from her sister who has married: "Suddenly I felt alone... There is no other way to go around it... my sister may no longer live with us... [but] she is happy and having the 'greatest adventure' of her life."

In discussing faith, families and human worth, some young writers tend to agree with Derrida when the latter deconstructed the opposition between private and public. His trick was to recognize that in every textual production there was the itinerary of a constantly thwarted desire to make the text explain.

Meanwhile, the young writers of "Heaven's Kitchen" choose to reconstitute the family by a return to the traditional basics. By adhering to one's good sense, the Varsitarian seems to say, homes will never be provisional.

"Heaven's Kitchen" concludes by urging readers to find rootedness in faith, family and friends.

"Heaven's Kitchen" is available at the UST Bookstore (tel. 731-3522/3101 local 8252 or 8278), Varsitarian (731-3101 local 8235) or selected bookstores

UP Press Book Caravan stops in Baguio and Davao

THE UP Press Book Caravan will make its second stop at the UP College Baguio on Jan. 23, and its third stop at the UP Mindanao Campus in Davao City on Jan. 24.

The caravan to Baguio City will feature Virgilio Almario, Alfred Yuson and Mes de Guzman in a literary reading. They will be joined by Baguio-based writers Francis Macansantos and Pia Arboleda. This event is co-sponsored by UP Baguio dean Priscilla Macansantos.

In Davao City, Gemino Abad, Jose Y. Dalisay Jr. and Jun Cruz Reyes will read from their works along with Davao-based writers Tita Lacambra Ayala, Aida Rivera Ford, Carlota de Pio, Don Pagusara, Shielfa Alojamiento and Timothy Montes. This literary event is co-sponsored by UP Mindanao chancellor Ricardo de Ungria, himself a distinguished poet.

On Jan. 24, UP Press deputy director Ruth Pison will hold a short seminar on "How to Convert Your Research Material into a Book" in UP Baguio. UP Press director Hidalgo will hold the same seminar in UP Mindanao. All interested parties, especially faculty members UP and other universities, are welcome.

The Book Caravan is part of the UP Press Read Up Campaign. According to Hidalgo, the campaign includes the publishing of inexpensive books designed to make the best of contemporary literature in English and Filipino more accessible to Filipino students and teachers, and a "road show," which will take books and authors to different campuses around the country.

The special line is called the UP Jubilee Student Edition. It includes new editions of out-of-print books by veteran writers, like "Poems and Parables" by Abad, "The Oldtimer and Other Stories" by Dalisay, (A)lamat at (H)istorya" by Almario, and "Utos ng Hari at Iba Pang Kuwento" by Reyes; first books by new writers, like "Barriotic Punk" by De Guzman, "Marginal Bliss" by Carlomar Daona, and "Smaller and Smaller Circles" by F.H. Batacan; and personal anthologies by award-winning writers Krip Yuson ("Selected Stories") and Pete Lacaba ("Kung Baga sa Bigas").

The UP Press will hold a special book sale and book signing after the readings in both UP Baguio and UP Mindanao.

SPECIA TY TOR

POWERBOOKS EXECUTIVE-MBA LECTURE SERIES
PowerBooks Specialty Store, with McGraw-Hill Phils., Ateneo de Manila University, and Entrepreneur Magazine, recently hosted the first lecture in the Executive-MBA Series at PowerBooks Arnaiz. Prof. Cesar Mansibang gave a lecture on "Mergers and Acquisitions," citing notes from the book with the same title from the E-MBA Lecture Series by McGraw-Hill. Watch out for the second E-MBA lecture on "Strategic Marketing Management," Jan. 22, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks Arnaiz. Shown above are (from left): Patrick Chan, medical publishing sales director for Asia; Estela Khan Suyat, McGraw-Hill Phils. general manager; Maximo Gabriel Licauco, PowerBooks Specialty Store operations manager; Prof. Cesar Mansibang; Prof. Albert Buenviaje; Neil Palabrica, The Entrepreneur Magazine associate publisher; and Jenny G. Javier, McGraw-Hill Phils. marketing executive.

Seven Habits proponent is Author of Month

THE POWERBOOKS Author of the Month is Dr. Stephen Covey of the phenomenally successful bestseller, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," which has sold over six million copies. Covey has a doctorate degree from Brigham Young University. His other works include: "Principle Centered Leadership," "First Things First" and "Living the Seven Habits."

Todd Shimoda's "The Fourth Treasure" is PowerBooks' Book of the Month. Illustrated throughout with beautiful calligraphy, "The Fourth Treasure" is an original novel of self-discovery.